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**A Cultural Resource  
Reconnaissance Level Survey on  
CONESUS LAKE, NEW YORK  
1981**

**Philip H. Galkin**

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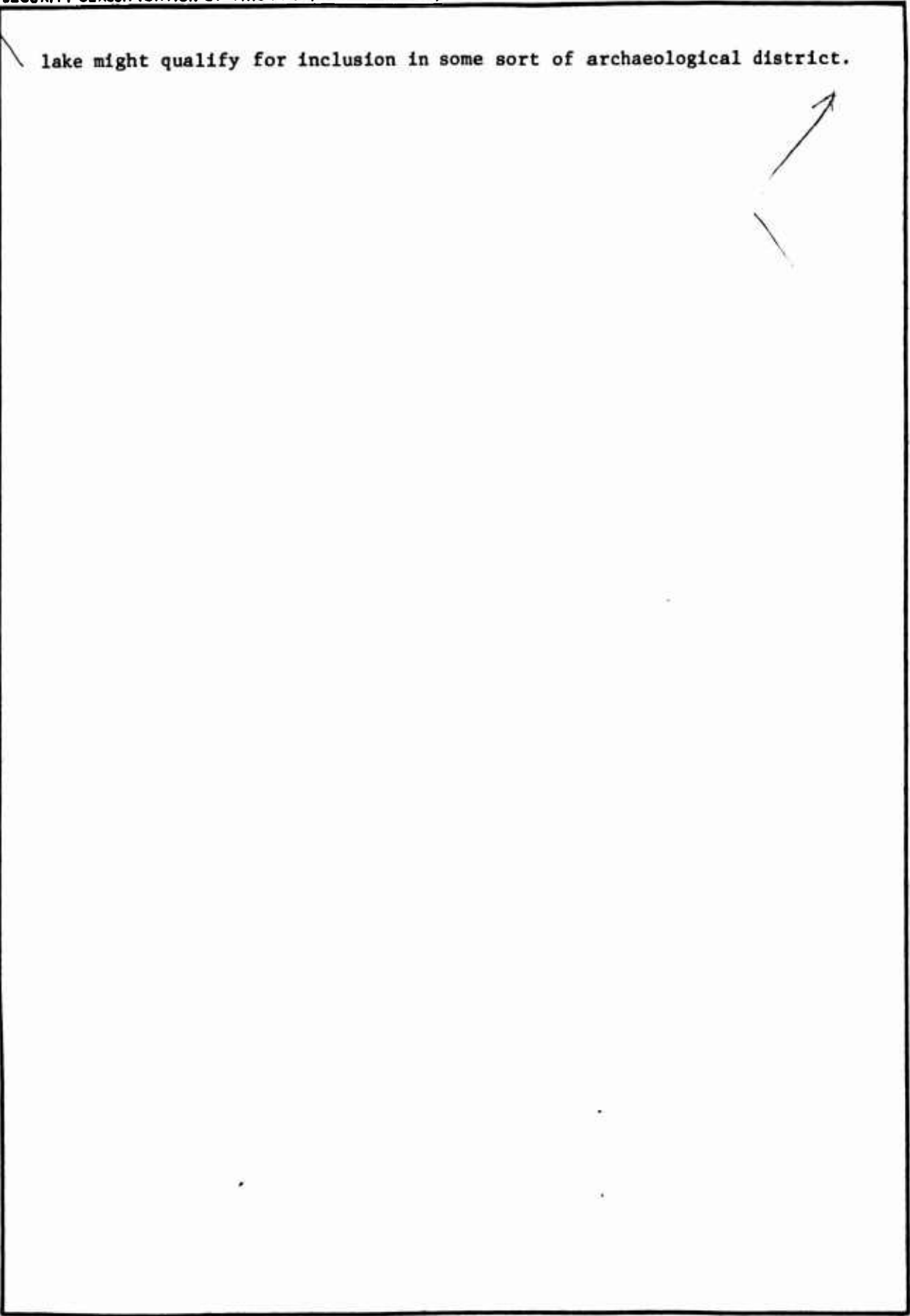
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lake might qualify for inclusion in some sort of archaeological district.



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### Abstract

In June, 1981, the author conducted a cultural resources reconnaissance level survey for Conesus Lake, New York. The survey was conducted for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District by Archaeological Consulting and Services of Madison, Wisconsin, under the terms of Contract No. DACW 49-81-R-0047. In the course of the survey, the project area was submitted to pedestrian survey, as well as the excavation of 248 shovel test units and two 1x1 meter excavation units. Archaeological materials were recovered from the east side of the lake in the form of eight small, surface sites and from the west bank of Conesus Creek (although this material was not in the project area). None of the sites would appear to qualify for the National Register of Historic Places in and of themselves, but the sites on the east side of the lake might qualify for inclusion in some sort of archaeological district.

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In June, 1981, the author conducted a Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Level Survey for Conesus Lake, New York. The purpose of the survey was to determine if any cultural resources might be impacted by the proposed flood control measures for the lake area. The survey was conducted for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District under the auspices of Contract No. DACW49-81-R-0047, by Archaeological Consulting and Services of Madison, Wisconsin.

Preliminary cultural resource surveys of this nature have been mandated by a number of pieces of legislation and executive orders. These include the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-655), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190), Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment (E.O. 11593), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR, Part 800), the National Register of Historic Places: Procedures for Requesting Determination of Eligibility (36 CFR, Part 63) and the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army Identification and Administration of Cultural Resources (33 CFR, Part 305).

Up to the inception of the field work portion of this project, there was some question as to what the specific goals of the project might be, in terms of area. It appeared that the

area to be surveyed might be considerably more restricted than that originally outlined in the scope of work. Negotiations with Corps personnel yielded the following project goals;

- 1) An intensive archaeological survey of an approximately 2000 meter long strip along the west bank of Conesus Creek from its outflow point from Conesus Lake to just north of the Lakeville Wastewater Treatment Plant. The intensive survey was defined as a combination of subsurface testing, where necessary, and pedestrian survey. Also included in this area was a pedestrian survey of an approximately 400 meter wide strip of lakeshore from Sand Point east to where the shoreline turns south (Figs. 3, 4 and 9).
- 2) A pedestrian survey of an approximately 400 meter wide strip of the east shore of Conesus Lake from just north of the Livonia-Conesus Township lines to the vicinity of Highway 20a-15 to the north. Also included in the area was a small section in the Sunnyside area of Conesus Township. The goal here was a pedestrian survey of areas with good surface conditions for observation. This area also had a small area (approximately 8900 sq. meters) on Old Orchard Point which was to be tested, if possible (Figs. 3-6).
- 3) An intensive subsurface survey of an approximately 1x1km. strip at the south end of the lake. As it became apparent that this area was both marshy and highly disturbed in most cases, it was decided that the survey here would consist of pedestrian survey with subsurface testing at the discretion of the investigators (Figs. 3, 4 and 7).
- 4) The surface survey of five small tracts on the west side of the lake. The survey here would consist of pedestrian walk-overs (Figs. 3-7).

It was understood that the only disturbance contemplated for the immediate future will be in the area along the west bank of Conesus Creek, north of the lake. This area will be disturbed by flood control measures which will extensively disturb about 10 meters of the west bank of the creek. Any



cultural resources in this area would be seriously impacted. The other areas included in the survey are not slated to be disturbed by this flood control project. However, the Corps of Engineers included them in the survey in case of potential changes in the project design which would lead to the disturbance of those areas.

#### The Area

Conesus Lake lies in the east-central part of Livingston County in the western portion of New York State (Figs. 1 and 2). The lake lies in, or borders the townships of Geneseo, Livonia, Groveland and Conesus (Fig. 3). It is about 42 kilometers south of Rochester and 100 kilometers east of Buffalo, New York.

The lake basin of this most westerly of the Finger Lakes is 180.5 sq. kilometers in size. It is 12.6 kilometers long, .4 to 1 kilometer wide and averages 11.5 meters in depth (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1981: C-1). Elevations in the area range from about 263.5 meters above sea level at the lake level to over 355 meters above sea level in the uplands on the east and west of the lake. Other water resources in the area include Conesus Creek, which flows through the lake, McMillian Creek (north and south branches), Wilkins Creek and small bodies such as Denshore, Cottonwood and North Gullies.

The geology, soil morphology, flora and fauna of the

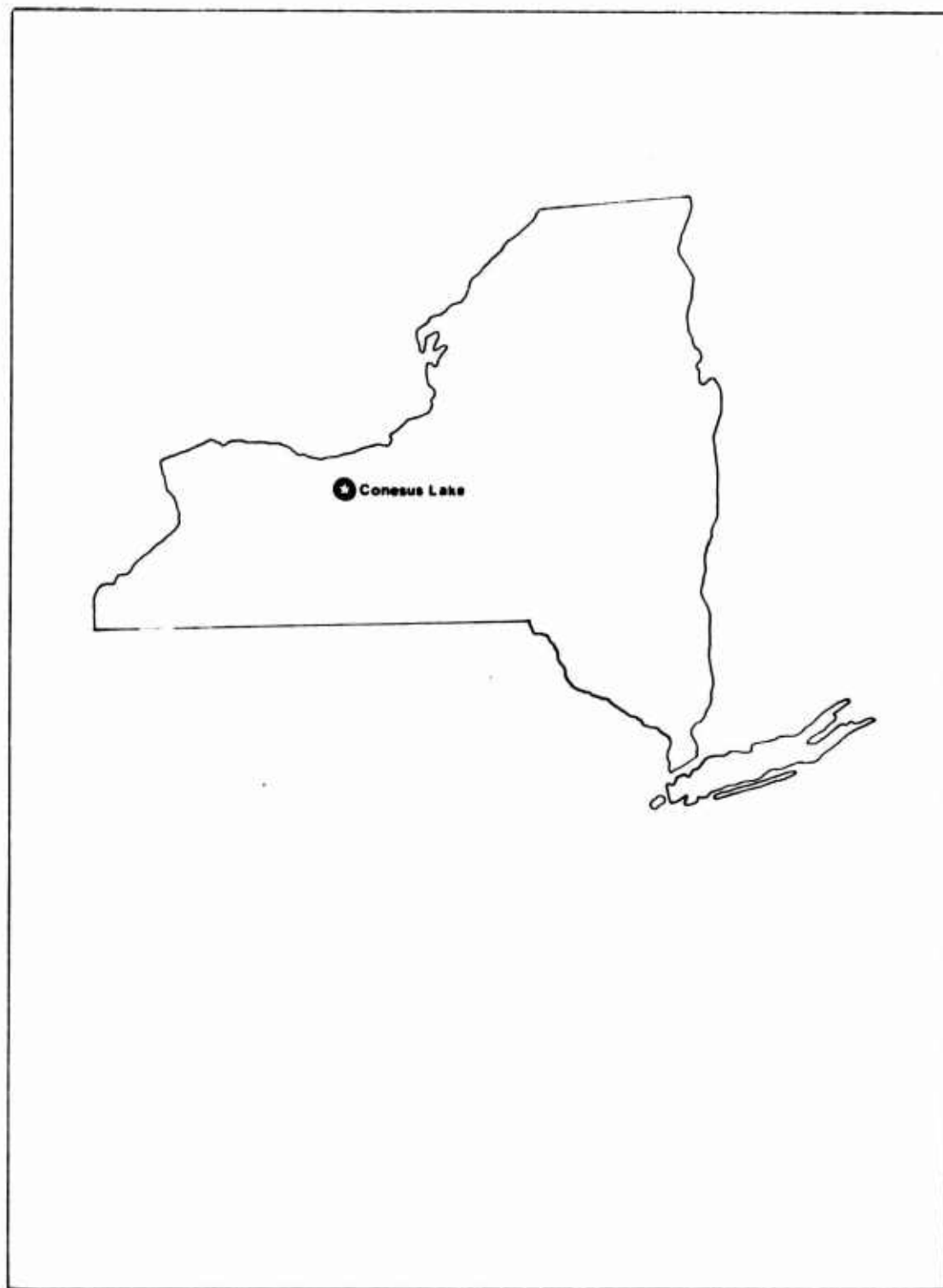


Fig. 1 - The Conesus Lake Area in Livingston County, New York

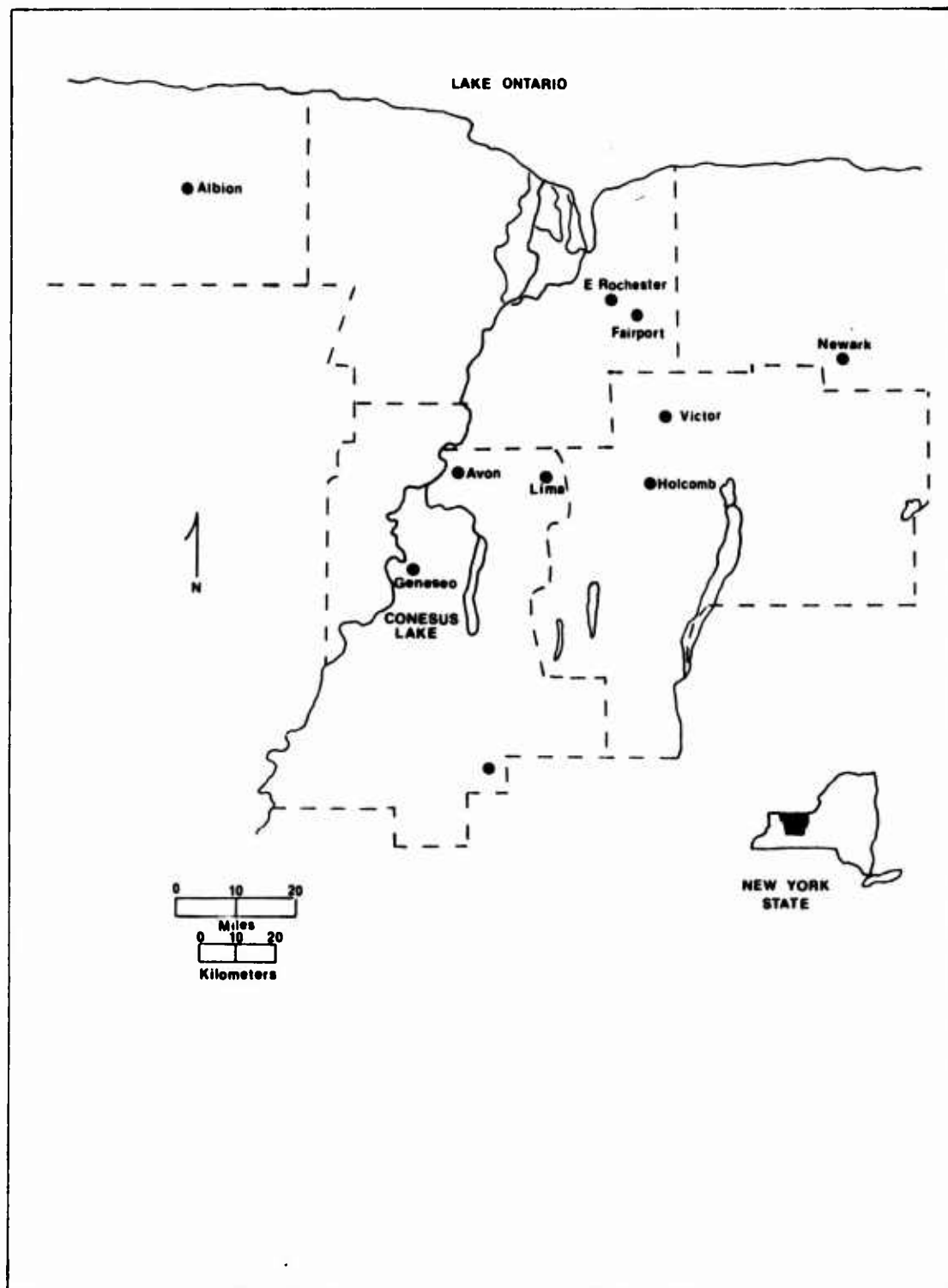


Fig. 2 - The Conesus Lake Area in Livingston County

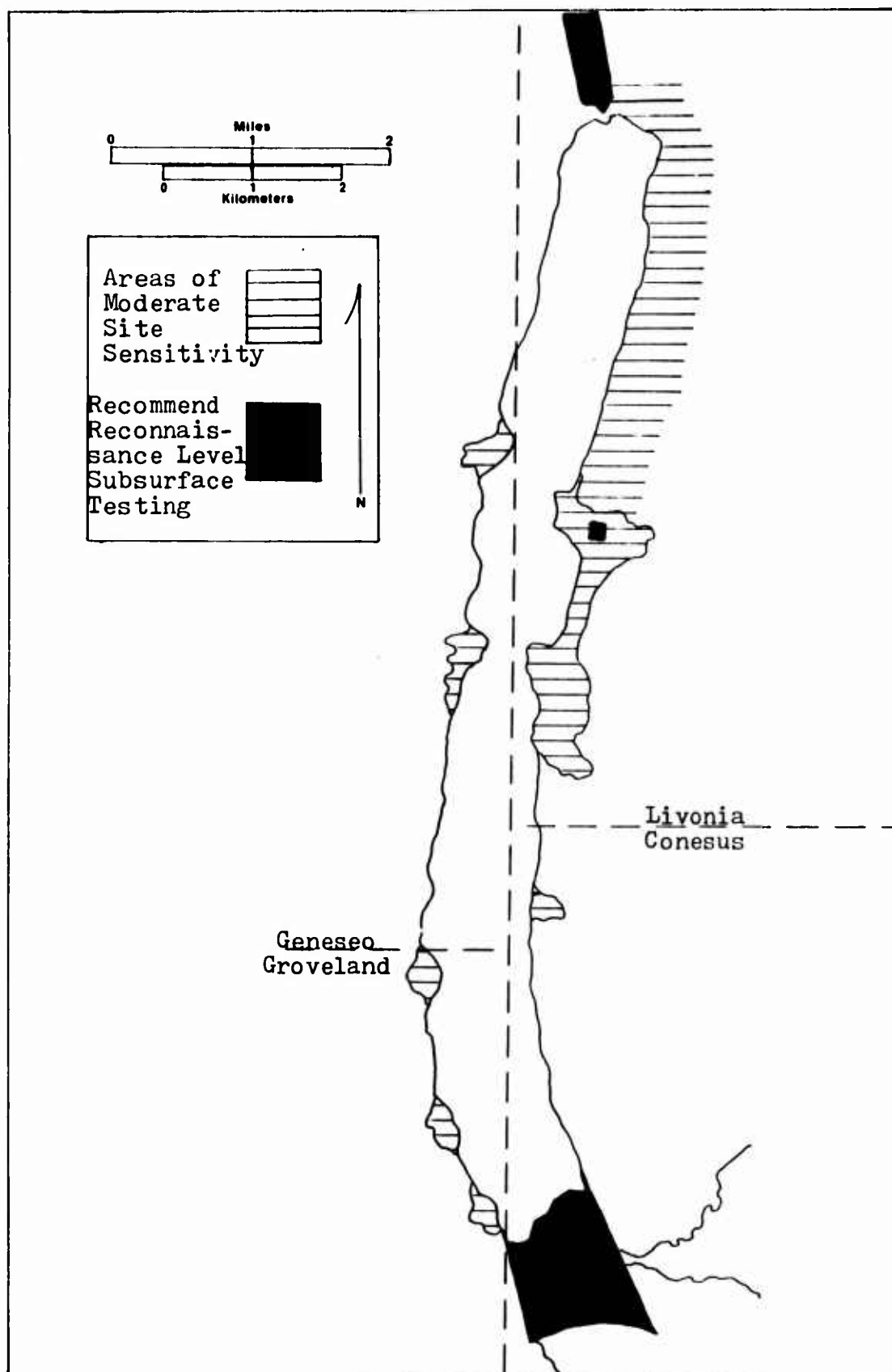


Fig. 3 - Conesus Lake Project Areas from U.S. Army Corps Scope of Work

project area have been discussed by Murphy and Silver (1980) in their literature and records search on the cultural resources of the area and in the Stage III Detailed Project Report developed by the Buffalo District, Corps of Engineers. Thus, only a few points will be noted here.

Conesus Lake is in the Finger Lakes System of the Appalachian Plateaus Province of New York. The lakes are a series of steep-walled, roughly parallel bodies. They are U-shaped glaciated river valleys (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1981: C-2). Morainal deposits of Wisconsin age may be noted in the area, especially in the uplands around the lake. The relatively shallow depth of the calcareous till is indicated by the presence of such till in many of the cultivated fields and along the shallow creeks and gullies in the area.

#### Methods

Prior to the initiation of field work, discussions on the project were held with Corps of Engineers personnel. Before and during the fieldwork, interviews were held with local residents, municipal and county personnel and with other individuals familiar with the area. Contact was also made with the Livingston County Historical Society, the Rochester Public Museum and later, with the State University at Geneseo.

Permission had to be obtained to gain access to all



properties surveyed in this project. At this time, property owners were questioned regarding previous archaeological work in the area and on known cultural resources on their properties or in the area.

Pedestrian survey was conducted in all areas within the project which had good conditions for surface observation. All of Areas A and D (Figs. 3 and 4) were subjected to pedestrian survey whether conditions were favorable or not. In agricultural fields, the survey utilized a 5 meter wide interval between transects. This interval was reduced to 2 meters or less where archaeological materials were recovered. The provenience of the artifacts recovered on the surface of fields was noted to determine if more than one cluster of artifacts was present in a field, which might indicate the presence of several occupations.

Subsurface testing was conducted according to the specifications of the scope of work and where the investigators thought it might contribute to the project. The number of units excavated in each area will be discussed in the body of the report. In general, the units were spaced at 15 meter intervals. Units were 45x45cm. in size and were dug, by shovel, at least 10cm. into the B Horizon (subsoil horizon), where present. Soils from some units were screened through  $\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh screen. Units which were not screened were those in disturbed or filled areas, or those dug in very marshy or stony areas.

When possible, at least one shovel test unit was placed in each site found in a cultivated field to determine the depth of the cultivation and the potential for undisturbed archaeological deposits. Two 1x1 meter units were excavated by trowel and skim-shovelling in the Old Orchard area of the project.

#### Previous Archaeological Work

Archaeological work in Livingston County extends back to the early excavations and surveys in New York State. A literature and records search on previously reported cultural resources was completed by Murphy and Silver (1980). While it was not a goal of this project to duplicate this effort, some additional points will be made here, and the work of Murphy and Silver summarized.

Perhaps the first reported sites from the area are those included in Squier's work on New York archaeology (1851). These included three sites in Livingston County in the general vicinity of Conesus Lake, including an earthwork and cemetery in Livonia. Beauchamp's summary of archaeological sites in the state (1900) included 12 sites within 16 kilometers or so of the project area. Two sites were on Conesus Lake itself. Most of the sites in the county were listed as historic Seneca camps, villages and cemeteries and most of the rest were mounds and other earthworks. Parker, in 1922, listed numerous sites for Livingston County, including two historic Seneca sites, a pre-

historic site, and a few less-well defined sites on Conesus Lake itself. A contact site was also noted to the north of the project area in Avon Township, near Conesus Creek. This two acre site had some excavations conducted on it (Parker 1922: 588).

More recently, William A. Ritchie and others have conducted surveys and excavations in the Livingston County area. Sites, ranging from Paleo-Indian to historic Iroquois have been reported (Ritchie 1969, Ritchie and Funk 1973). In some cases, these sites have had an important impact on the study of the archaeology of New York. Lamoka Phase sites of the Late Archaic are common in the Genesee River Valley, which runs through the county and the near the project area (Ritchie 1936, 1969). These include the Piffard Site. Early Woodland occupations are indicated by the Scaccia Site, one of the best examples of a seasonal Meadowood Phase site in the state (Ritchie and Funk 1973). The Middle Woodland Period is represented in the area by mounds of the Squawkie Hill Phase. The Squawkie Hill site itself lies in Livingston County (Ritchie 1938). This phase represents a diffuse extension of Hopewellian traits to the east. Surprisingly, little reference could be found concerning Point Peninsula Tradition sites in the area. An exception is the Long Point Refuse II site, noted by Murphy and Silver (1980: 16) on the west side of Conesus Lake. Owasco Tradition sites of the Late Woodland period also do not figure prominently

in the literature on this area. Owasco materials were also recovered from the Long Point Refuse II site (Murphy and Silver 1980: 16). However, historic Iroquois sites are more common, represented by Seneca camps, villages and cemeteries. The Dutch Hollow Site (Ritchie 1954) is located in Avon Township to the north of the project area.

More recently, archaeological survey was conducted north of the project area in connection with the Highway 390 Project. Crews from the State University of New York at Buffalo discovered numerous small sites and "find spots" in the glacial uplands around the northern part of the lake (Murphy and Silver 1980: 14). The State University at Geneseo has also had an active research program in Livingston County, primarily in the Genesee River Valley to the west of the project area.

Murphy and Silver summarized eighteen sites around Cone-sus Lake. About half of these sites had relatively little data available on their age or cultural affiliations. Other sites had Lamoka, Laurentian Tradition, Point Peninsula, Owasco or historic Seneca components. It would appear that most of these sites have been destroyed in the development of the lakeshore. For the history of the area, Murphy and Silver noted a number of contact and Revolutionary War sites in the general area, including those relating to the Sullivan campaign of 1779.

Thus, the literature and records relating to Livingston County indicate the presence of numerous sites and the potential for the discovery of additional ones. Many of these sites lie to the west of Conesus Lake, along the Genesee River. Some of these sites are (or were) earthworks, including the relatively rare Middle Woodland mounds.

#### The Survey

To facilitate the reporting of the survey results, the project area has been divided into four areas, designated as Areas A through D (Fig. 4).

##### Area A:

Area A consists of an approximately 1x1km. area on the south shore of Conesus Lake. The inlet of Conesus Creek flows through this area. It is joined by the South Branch of McMillian Creek. The North Branch of McMillian Creek also flows through a portion of this area and into Conesus Lake (Fig. 7).

This area corresponds to Zone MR-6A in the Murphy and Silver report (1980: 37). They suggested subsurface testing in this area based on what they considered to be the somewhat better drainage conditions in the area compared to the adjoining marshes, and the presence of reported European-Native American contact sites in the area. Two sites, the Flannigan and possibly the Conesus Village sites are reported for the area. Two more sites, both reported without cultural or chronological



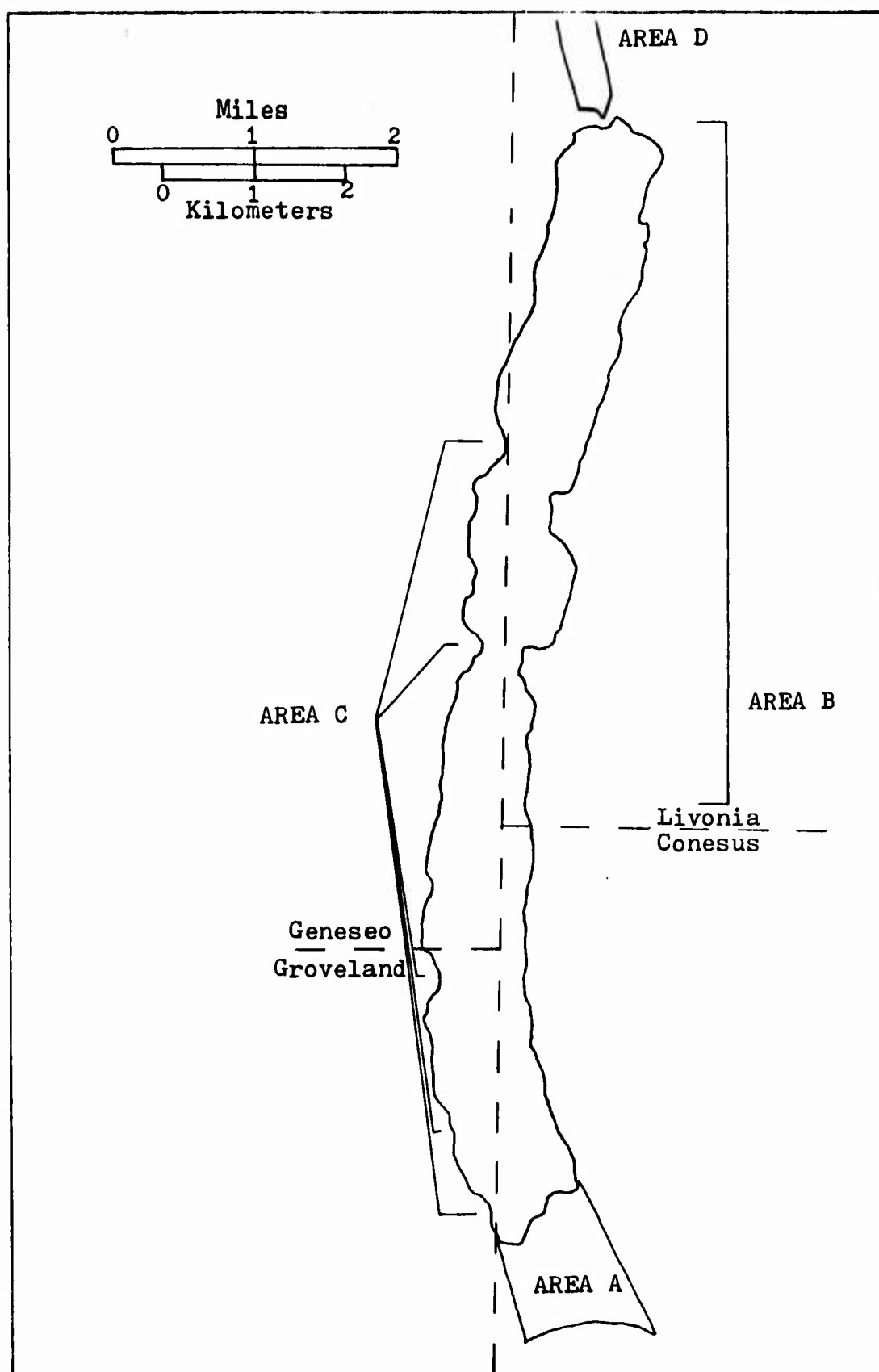


Fig. 4 - The Division of the Project into Areas A-D

affiliations, were reported immediately to the south of Area A.

A review of the U.S.G.S. maps of the area, and an initial reconnaissance of the area suggested that Area A would have a very low archaeological potential. The area is low, fairly level and primarily marshy. Elevations vary from about 265 to 271 meters above sea level. The area was apparently marshier in the past, prior to the construction of Sliker Road and was more similar to the marshes to the south.

Between West Lake Road and Decola Shores Road, the area has been filled and several canals have been cut. Much of the area is still marshy with areas of standing water. Two north-south transects of shovel test units indicated the highly disturbed and filled nature of the area. The soils from these units were not screened as it was determined that the soils were either fill or highly disturbed and could not yield any in situ archaeological remains. Besides the twenty units in the transects, thirty more small shovel probes, placed at random, were dug and these also demonstrated the disturbed nature of the area.

East of Decola Shores Road lies the North Branch of McMillian Creek, a series of agricultural fields and a pasture, lying at the junction of Sliker and East Lake Roads. Sixty-two shovel test units were excavated in the pasture in the southeastern corner of Area A at 15 meter intervals. All the units

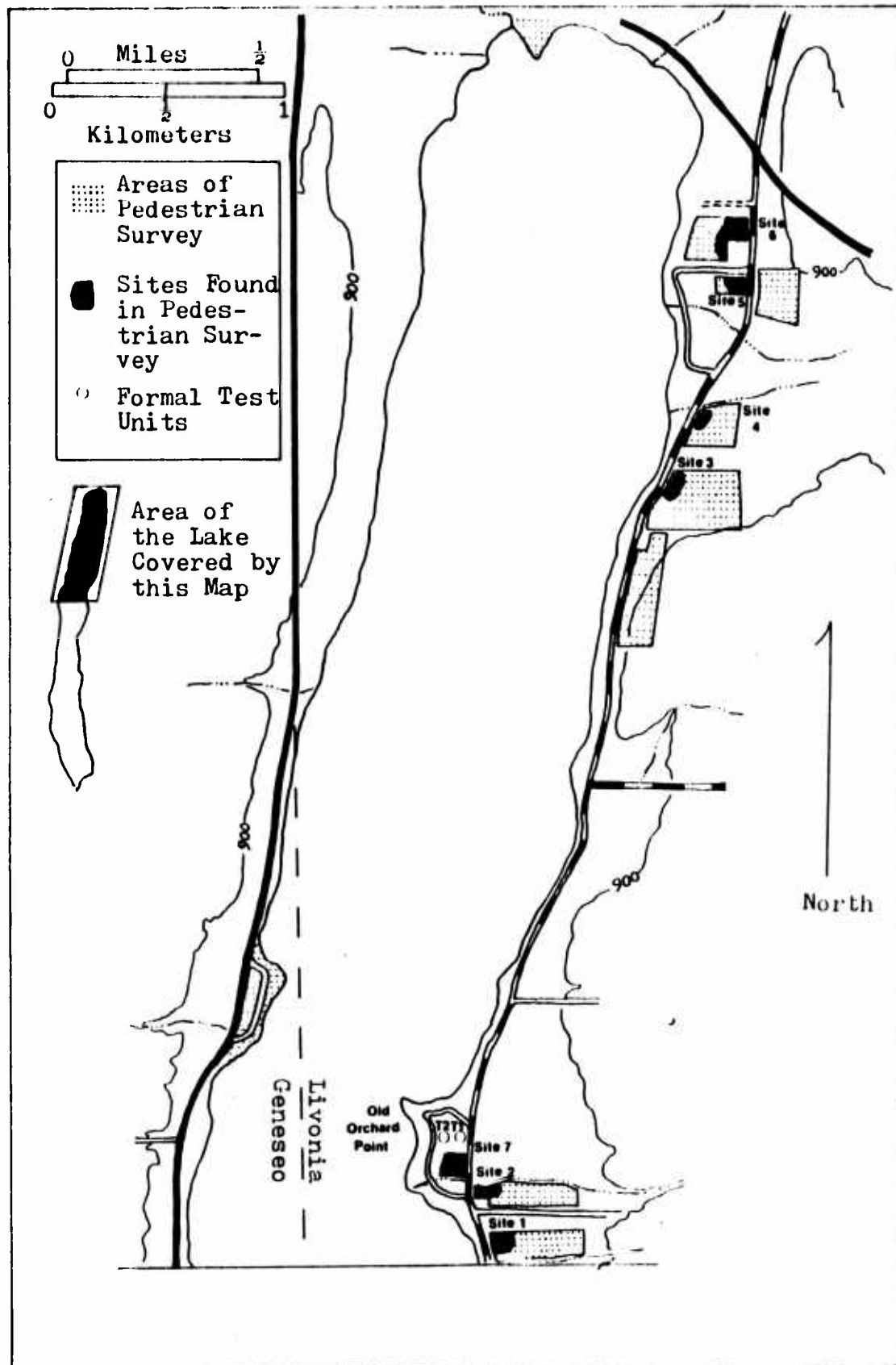


Fig. 5 - The Northern End of Conesus Lake

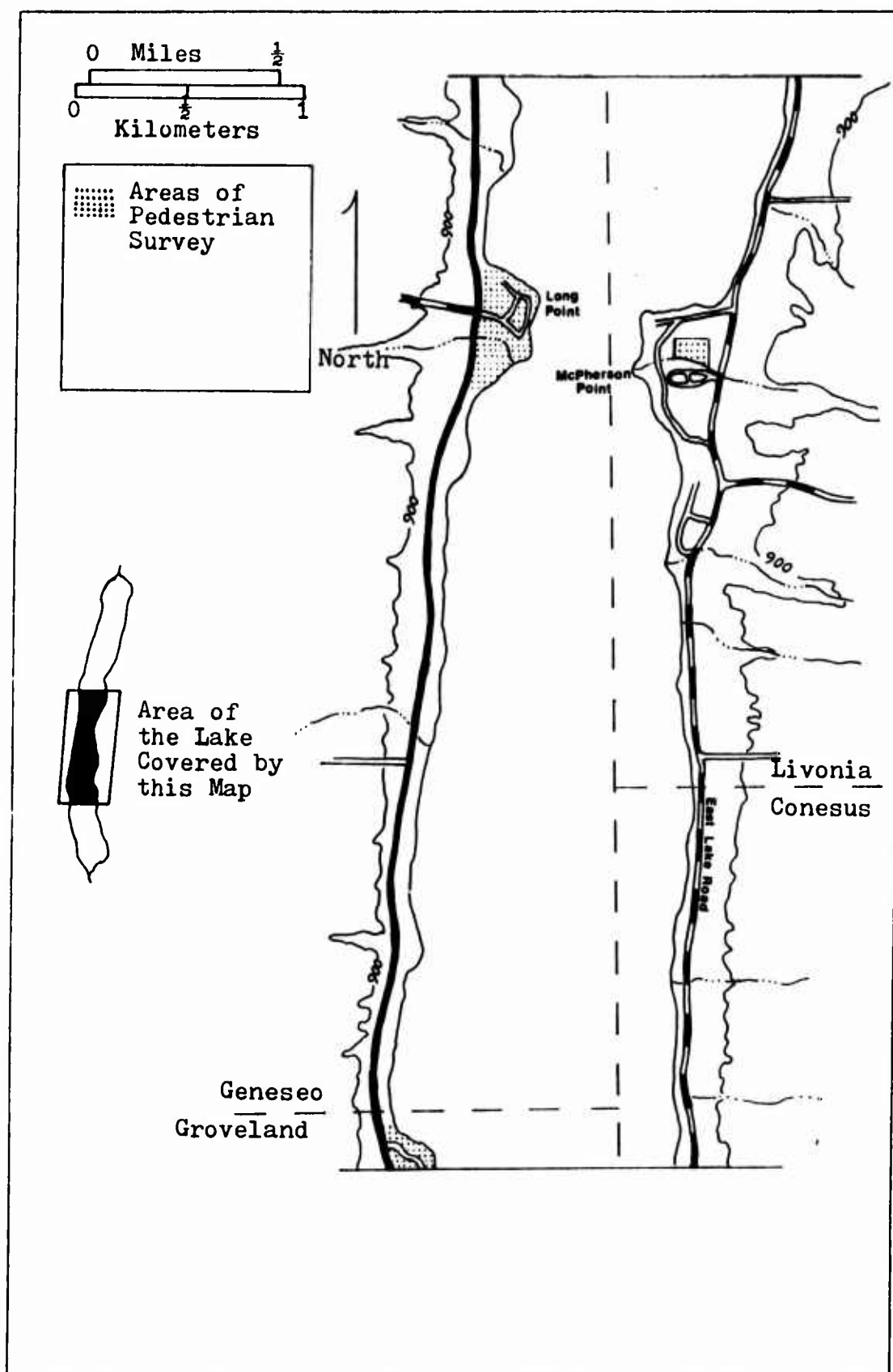


Fig. 6 - The Central Area of Conesus Lake

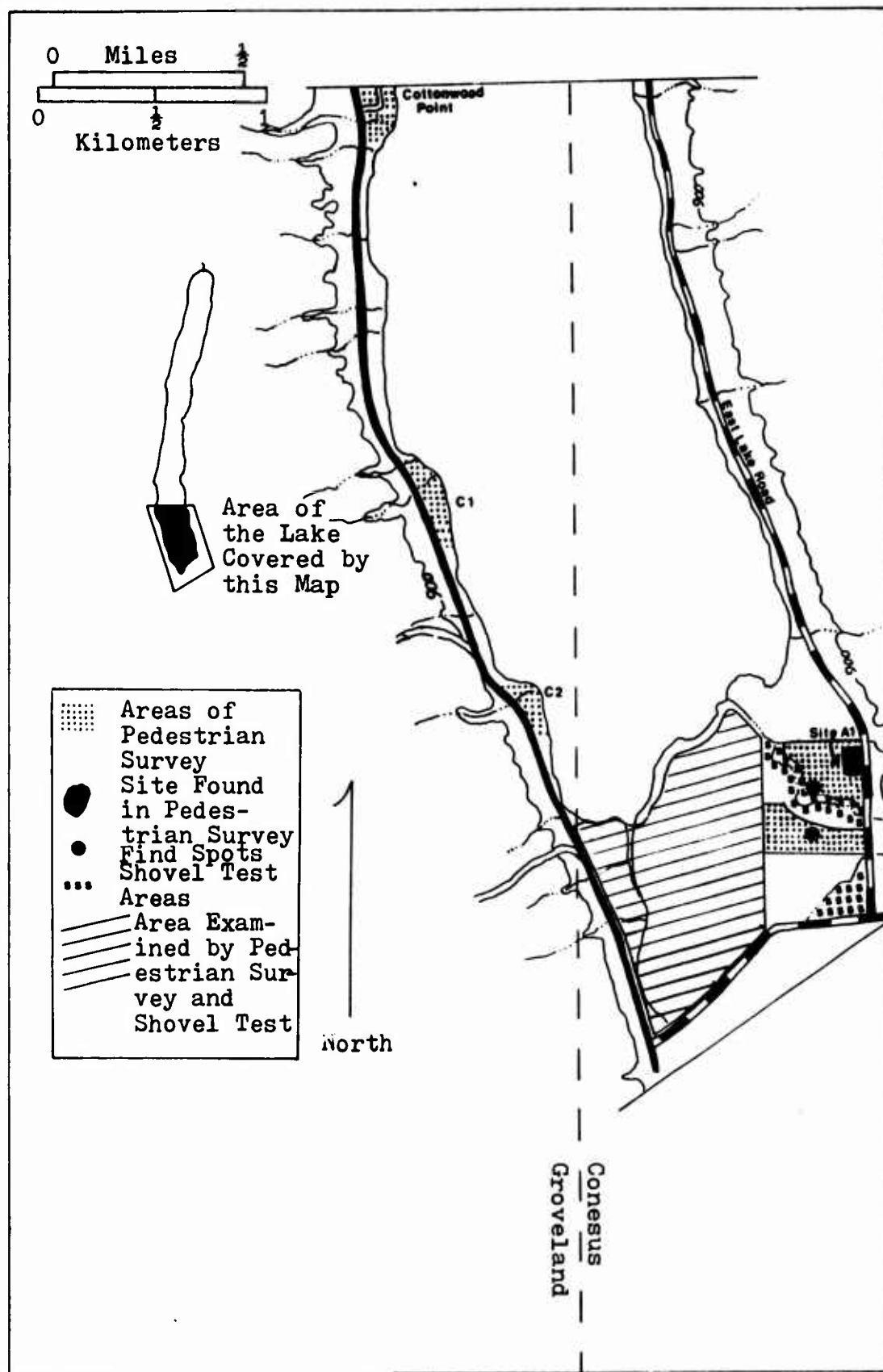


Fig. 7 - The Southern End of Conesus Lake



were screened. Most of these units had some measure of fill or disturbance in the Ap (a cultivated topsoil horizon) Horizon. The Ap Horizon ranged from 15 to 33cm. thick. Interviews with local residents revealed that the area was a former Par 3 golf course before it was farmed and that it has been slated to become a baseball field. The only artifacts recovered from the field were two rusty nails from the Ap Horizon.

At least narrow areas on both sides of the North Branch of McMilliam Creek appeared to be relatively undisturbed so it was decided to dig a series of shovel test units at 15 meter intervals from where the creek runs through the filled areas to the west, to where it crosses East River Road.

Forty-five units were dug on the west side of the creek. These had 11-35cm. of silt and sand over a very stony B2 Horizon. In some cases, the rock was almost semi-consolidated. For this reason, the soils from these units were not screened. No archaeological materials were recovered. On the east side, thirty-nine more units were dug. These generally have similar soil horizons as those on the west side with somewhat deeper deposits of silt and sand and with fewer rocks. The soils from these units were screened. Twenty-six of these units were dug on the margins of an agricultural field. From one of these units (Fig. 7), a piece of chert debitage was recovered from the Ap

Horizon. This was the only artifact recovered. Another unit was immediately dug three meters to the west of the unit, on the edge of the creek bank. No archaeological materials were found. A surface survey of the cornfield later indicated the presence of one or more sites.

The final portion of Area A was the agricultural fields which run from East Lake Road down to the North Branch of McMillian Creek, or down to Decola Shores Road, south of the creek. These fields were walked in 5 meter wide intervals. From one of the fields (Fig. 7), a piece of handblown, dark green glass was recovered. This artifact was very similar to a glass fragment recovered from the Swartz Site. The small fragment could not be identified as to age, or even to what manner of vessel it came from. The fragment from the Swartz Site, as will be discussed, may have come from a late 18th century-early 19th century liquor bottle. The recovery of this artifact and its potential origin, brought to mind the Euro-American-Native American contact sites reported for the area. However, the recovery of one piece of handblown glass is not sufficient to make any deductions as to the nature of the site. No additional historical or prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the field, despite an intensive search.

North and east of the North Branch of McMillian Creek lies another cornfield. On the lower terrace of this field,

approximately 8 meters east of the creek, 2 pieces of chert debitage were recovered (Fig. 7). As noted earlier, one more piece was recovered from the Ap Horizon of a shovel test unit dug nearby. An intensive search of the area failed to yield any additional artifacts. However, on a small, higher terrace, on the eastern margin of the field (Fig. 7), a concentration of artifacts was recovered over an approximately 40x40 meter area. This site was called the Beehive Site, from the apiary across the street. This site is very close to, or may well be the same as the Joy Farm Site (N.Y.S. #902), a Lamoka Site noted in the Murphy and Silver report (1980: 16-17). This concentration yielded the following artifacts from the surface;

- 15 pieces of chert debitage (1 decortication flake)
- 4 bifacially retouched chert artifacts
- 1 unifacially retouched chert artifact
- 1 projectile point
- 1 mollusc shell fragment
- 1 piece of bone.

The chert implements include one incomplete fragment of a knife-like implement. Little could be determine from the other fragments. The projectile (Fig. 10) is a good example of the Vestal Corner-Notched type, defined primarily on the basis of sites and collections from the Broome County area (Ritchie 1971: 130). The chronology and cultural affiliations of this projectile type are not fully defined, but it would appear to be a Late Archaic type.

This site has most of the characteristics of the seven

sites discovered in Area B. These include a low density of artifacts and a low ratio of debitage to retouched artifacts. This would suggest that lithic manufacture was not a primary activity at the site. Evidence for such domestic activities as food preparation and consumption, such as bone fragments (with one possible exception) or fired rock were absent. The only organic materials found were a fragment of a mollusc shell and the second phalange of a deer. From the condition of the bone, it would not appear that the bone was very old or was associated with the prehistoric occupation of the site.

Historic artifacts from the site included 4 pieces of glass, a fragment of the neck of a bottle and 1 piece of recent ceramic. The neck of the bottle has a mold line up to the lip on the surviving surface. If a mold line was present on the missing portion, the bottle is unlikely to be over 80 years old (Weitzman 1976: 142).

The relationship between the artifact concentration on the upper terrace and the three pieces of debitage from the lower terrace near the creek is difficult to determine. Two sites may be present, or the three flakes may have been transported from the higher elevations. There is almost 100 meters of archaeologically sterile field between the concentration and the three flakes, so the two finds would probably not be part of one large site.

Permission to excavate any shovel test units on the site could not be obtained from the property owner. However, the series of units excavated on the edge of the lower terrace of the field indicated that the site had been cultivated down to the B2 Horizon, greatly decreasing the potential for undisturbed archaeological deposits.

Summation:

It would appear that Area A has a very low archaeological potential. Much of the area consists of former swamps which have been filled in for the construction of cottages (most, or all of which are less than 50 years old), and roads. Another portion of the area was a former Par 3 golf course which had in more recent time been cultivated. The only prehistoric materials were restricted to the isolated find of three pieces of debitage and a small Late Archaic site in the northeastern corner of the area. Also recovered was a lone piece of hand-blown glass of some presumed antiquity, found in another field.

Area B:

Area B of the project consisted of a strip of land on the eastern shore of Conesus Lake, from the Hartson Point area to the vicinity of Highway 20a-15 (Fig. 4). As determined from the map provided in the scope of work, this corridor was to be approximately 400 meters wide from the lakeshore. Also included in this area was a small plot of land around the



Sunny Shores Tract. This area corresponds to Zones MR-4 and MR-7 as defined by Murphy and Silver (1980: 37).

The area may be divided into three settings. On the lakeshore, the area is extensively disturbed by the construction of an almost unbroken line of cottages, driveways and access roads. East of these structures are, in some places a series of two or more terraces which slope up gradually to the east and southeast. These terraces are, or were, used as agricultural fields. In other cases, the area east of the cottages and East Lake Road slopes very steeply up wooded slopes.

The method to be used in this area was pedestrian survey of agricultural fields, a few small gardens and some open patches exposed by disturbance. If possible, some subsurface testing was to be done in the Old Orchard area. Pedestrian survey of the area utilized 5 meter wide intervals. When archaeological materials were encountered this interval was reduced to two meters and the areas were surface collected at least twice.

The small area between Sunny Shore and Hartson Point was the first to be examined. No areas with good surface observation could be found, with the exception of a small garden which yielded no archaeological materials. Most of the area slopes very steeply uphill to the east, rising as much as 100 meters over 400 meters. This steep a slope is not conducive to the

presence of either prehistoric sites or most historic structures.

The McPherson Point area and the land slightly to the south, are more level and more conducive to site location than the area previously described. The literature and records search conducted by Murphy and Silver (1980: 15-16) indicated an Archaic site on the point as reported by Parker and later by Wright. Unfortunately, an examination of the area indicated little potential for the survival of the site. Most of the point is covered by cottages, St. Margaret's Chapel or roads and parking lots. Several small gardens or exposed areas on the points were examined and no archaeological material was recovered. One large garden and a hayfield on the Hill Farm were systematically searched. The hay had been cut and some surface observation was possible. No archaeological materials were recovered. The property owner, Mr. Hill, a long-time resident of the area, was familiar with the report of an archaeological site on the point but indicated that he had never found any artifacts on his property.

From McPherson Point to McPherson Cove, the project area again becomes very steep. The slopes are overgrown and only a few small gardens by the side of East Lake Road could be examined. No archaeological materials were found.

The topography of the McPherson Cove-Old Orchard Point area is less steep, rising more gently to the east and south-east. Several large agricultural fields were present east of East Lake Road and a smaller field west of the road on Old Orchard Point (Fig. 5). These fields were all walked and three sites were found. They are described on the following pages.

Swartz Site (Site 1):

The Swartz Site (Site 1 on Fig. 5) was the most productive site discovered in the course of the survey. Located just to the east of East Lake Road, the site is approximately 645 meters north of Slattery Road, 160 meters south of Cleary Road and about 200 meters east of the lake.

The elevation of the field in which the site is located ranges from approximately 270 to 273 meters above sea level. Several small knolls lie in the field and to the east. In general, the site area slopes uphill to the east and southeast. The site may extend further to the north, into what is currently a grassy field.

The densest distribution of material is located in the northeastern corner of the cornfield. This area is approximately 150 (E-W) by 30 (N-S) meters in size, or 4500 sq. meters. A thinner distribution of artifacts was noted outside of this area.

Recovered materials included the following;

- 73 pieces of chert debitage
- 9 unifacially retouched chert artifacts
- 14 bifacially retouched chert artifacts
- 1 piece of handblown green glass.

The debitage included only four decortication flakes.

The unifacial artifacts included three utilized flakes, three retouched flakes and three unifacially retouched fragments.

Bifacially retouched artifacts include a variety of implements or fragments. Two distal ends of chert projectile points were recovered as was the distal end and a portion of the blade of another artifact. An ovate knife was found, made from a thick chert flake. This implement is 59.8x39.2x11.1mm. in size. An incomplete ovate chert knife was also found.

Nine projectile points were also recovered from the surface of the site. These points may be summarized as follows (Fig. 11 and Table #1);

- Cat. No. 1-9 - stemmed point - Lamoka point
- Cat. No. 1-5 - stemmed point - possible example of the Lamoka type but identification was tentative
- Cat. No. 1-6 - incomplete stemmed chert projectile point
- Cat. No. 1-3 - expanding stem point - morphologically similar to the Snook-Hill type but considerably smaller than the type as defined by Ritchie (1958: 91-98, 1971: 47-48)
- Cat. No. 1-8 - corner-notched point - probably an example of the Brewerton Corner-Notched type
- Cat. No. 1-10 - side-notched point - Brewerton Side-Notched.

The cultural and chronological affiliations of the site can be defined by the projectiles recovered. Both the Lamoka and Brewerton projectile points are common types in central New York. Although the Lamoka Phase is not part of the Laurentian Tradition, which includes the Brewerton Phase, the two are largely contemporaneous in the third millenium B.C. Lamoka and Brewerton points have been recovered from the same sites and may have been utilized by the same populations. The Snook-Hill point, if correctly identified would indicate a later occupation of the site. The Snook Hill Phase is dated by a C14 date of 1470 B.C. (Ritchie 1969: 136) and similar dates in southern New England and eastern New York (Swigart 1974, Funk 1976). The Snook Hill Phase is associated with the terminal Archaic and the Transitional Stage.

Historic debris at the site was represented by brick and glass fragments of a recent origin. One fragment of some potential age was recovered. This was a fragment of the bottom of a handblown bottle of green glass. No mold lines were present and many bubble and imprefections in the glass could be noted. Little could be determine from the small fragment. A search of a number of works on historic bottles (Weitzman 1976, Klamkin and Gardner 1977, McKearn and Wilson, 1978) indicated that the closest approximation that could be made was that it was a fragment of a late 18th-early 19th century liquor bottle. Such

bottles could be associated with an early historic site in the area or could have been used in trade between Euro-American and Native American peoples.

Relatively little else may be said concerning this site on the basis of the materials recovered. As with the other sites reported in this survey, there was a surprisingly low ratio of debitage (73) to retouched or utilized artifacts (24). Also, relatively few decortication flakes were recovered. This would suggest that lithic manufacture was not a major activity at the site. No evidence of features, fired rock or organic materials were present on the surface. The one shovel test unit excavated at this site had an Ap Horizon 26cm. deep over a B2t Horizon. Cherty gravel was common on the surface, as it was on the other sites. It would appear that the site was cultivated down to the B2t Horizon, limiting the potential for undisturbed archaeological deposits, although deeply excavated features such as pits or burials may have partially survived the cultivation of the site.

Morsch Site (Site 2):

This site was one of the less productive sites noted in the survey. It was noted to the north and east of Julie's Offshore Inn (Fig. 5). Cleary Road lies immediately to the south and a small road running east-west between East Lake and Pennemite

Roads lies about 810 meters to the north. Conesus Lake is about 200 meters to the west and East Lake Road forms what is now the western boundary of the site. The elevation of the site ranges from about 270 to 275 meters above sea level. The area rises to the east.

The site was discovered on the surface of a cultivated field. Most of the material was recovered from the westernmost 20 meters of the field which extends about 80 meters north-south. A few pieces of debitage were recovered to the east of this 20 meter wide strip. The site may extend (or may have extended) to the north and south.

Only a limited amount of material was recovered from this site. This included 10 pieces of chert debitage, including one decortication flake. Also recovered was the blade and a portion of the distal end of a chert implement, probably a drill. The only diagnostic artifact was a good example of a Lamoka point (Fig. 10 and Table #1).

Historic materials were represented at the site by two pieces of china and 1 piece of stoneware. Also recovered was a piece of mollusc shell, unidentifiable to genus or species.

Obviously, little may be said in regards to the site. The Lamoka point would suggest a Late Archaic occupation of the Lamoka Phase at this site. The amount of debitage suggests that industrial activities were limited. This would appear to



be a small campsite, probably occupied for a brief period of time.

One shovel test unit was excavated at the site. This unit had 29cm. of Ap Horizon over the B2 Horizon. It would appear that the site was cultivated down to the B2 Horizon.

Old Orchard Site (Site 7):

Part of the scope of work, as defined by the recommendations of Murphy and Silver (1980), was a pedestrian, and, if possible, subsurface investigation of the Orchard Point area. This small point of land on the eastern side of the lake is developed with many small cottages and landscaped yards. However, one small cornfield (about 80x80 meters in size) was noted as were several small gardens. When archaeological materials were recovered from the surface of the cornfield and from a small garden nearby, permission was obtained to excavate two 1x1 meter units in a large lawn area nearby (Fig. 8 ).

A small scattering of archaeological materials were recovered from the surface of the cornfield. These included 11 pieces of chert debitage (including one decortication flake) and one piece of quartz debitage, the only quartz artifact recovered in the survey. Also found were 6 lithic artifacts, 5 mollusc shell fragments, 1 fired rock fragment and 18 pieces of historic debris. Most of these artifacts were found in the northern half of the field. No concentrations of artifacts were

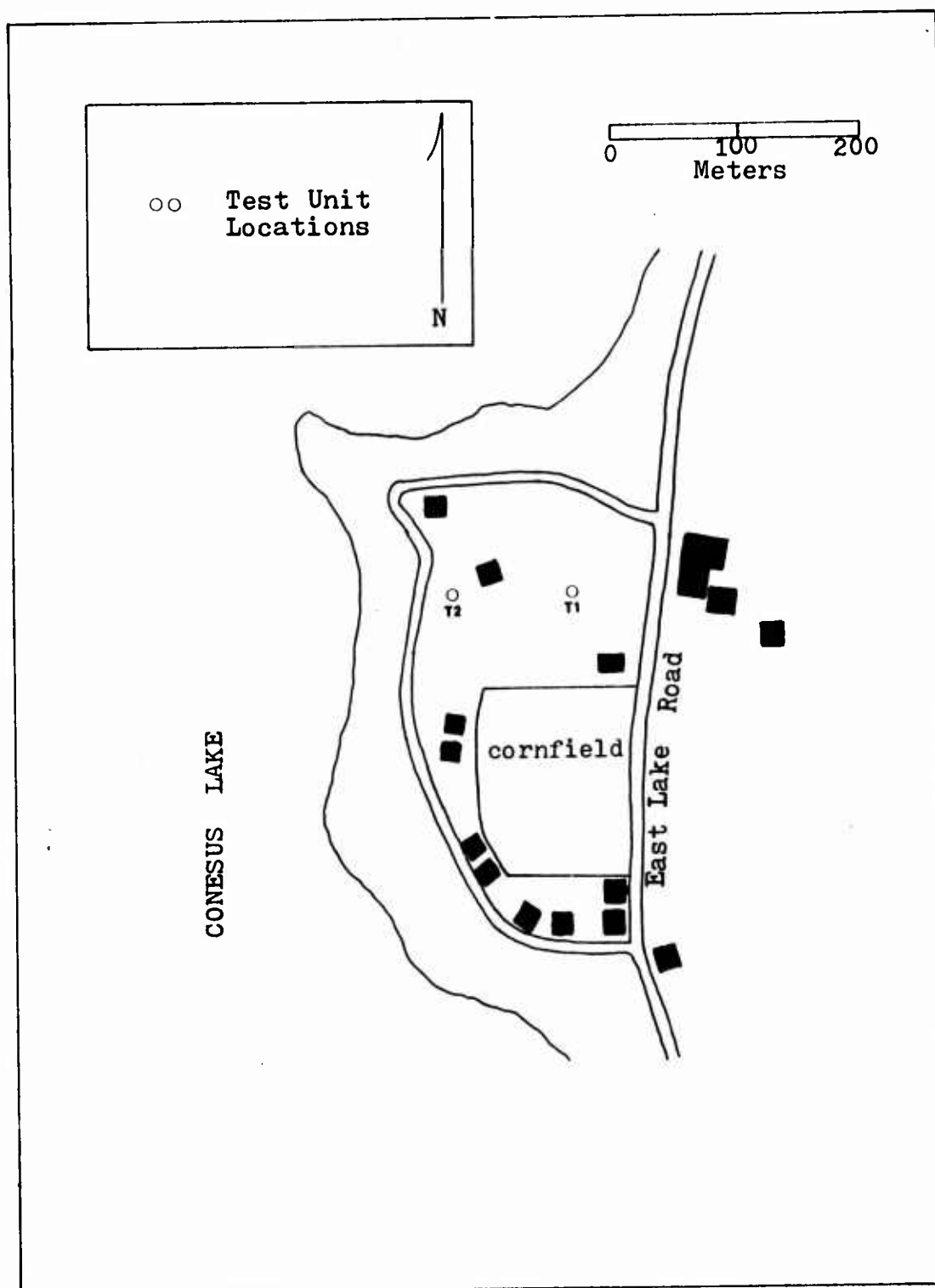


Fig. 8 - The Old Orchard Site Area

found with which to define site boundaries.

The lithic artifacts included the distal end of a chert projectile point and the distal end and blade of another point or small knife-like implement. A third artifact was the base and small portion of the blade of a bifacial lanceolate implement. The exact nature of this implement could not be determined. Another chipped stone artifact is a side-notched point which had been retouched into an endscraper (Fig. 10 and Table #1). The point appears to have been an example of a Brewerton Side-Notched point (Ritchie 1971: 19-20). The working edge has a  $44^{\circ}$  angle. Its smooth, worn edge suggests its use on softer materials, such as hides or vegetable fibers.

Other lithic artifacts included a small hammerstone and what appears to be a fragment of a pestle. The hammerstone is a circular cobble of granitic material. It has marks of battering on all surfaces. The pestle fragment is 55.1mm. long, 49.2mm. wide and 37.5mm. thick. It has a roughly rectangular cross-section. The pestle and the fired rock fragment are among the few evidences of domestic activity, such as food preparation, to be found from any of the sites.

Historic materials were plentiful in the cornfield, undoubtably relating to the numerous structures in the area. A representative sample of the recent debris and several more

unusual pieces were recovered. They included eight pieces of china from at least three different designs. One of the pieces has a delft design. Unfortunately, the sherd is too small (12.0x13.8mm.) to identify as to age or origin of manufacture. Also recovered were 1 piece of green glass (with some lettering), 1 piece of glass with a greenish tinge, 1 piece of cloudy glass, 1 piece of white glass, 1 piece of clear glass and a bottle fragment with the name "PIERSO(N?)" raised on it. Also found was the neck of a bottle. From the two mold lines which run up to the top of the lip, it may be suggested that the bottle is not more than 80 years old (Weitzman 1976: 142). Other historic materials included two fragments of brick and one stoneware sherd.

As noted, two 1x1 meter test units were excavated in the lawn area north of the Young House (Fig. 8 and Plates 1 and 2). The units were excavated in 10cm. levels within the natural stratigraphy by skim-shovelling and trowel. It became apparent that both units were in formerly cultivated fields. The units had Ap Horizons 26 and 30cm. deep. The unit closest to East Lake Road also had some fill in the Ap Horizon, probably from the landscaping and construction associated with the road, which lies up an embankment from the area tested.

The artifacts recovered were as follows;



Plate 1 - The Old Orchard Site, Viewing West



Plate 2 - The Old Orchard Site, Viewing North

Test Unit #1 - Ap Horizon

5 pieces of chert debitage  
1 distal end of a chert projectile point  
2 unifacially retouched chert flakes  
1 rusted nail  
1 small piece of glass  
3 pieces of brick

Test Unit#2 - Ap Horizon

12 pieces of chert debitage  
1 rusted nail.

One piece of chert debitage was recovered from the surface of a small garden, just to the north of the test units.

Mr. Young, the property owner, indicated that in the northeastern corner of his property, defined by East Lake Road to the east and a small access road to the north, a 19th century cemetery was formerly located. Interviews with other residents in the area did not yield any additional information on this supposed site. It was not mentioned in the Murphy and Silver report. This cemetery would be located only a few meters to the northeast of Test Unit #1. However, no trace could be found which would indicate the presence of such a site. The area indicated by Mr. Young has been highly disturbed, cut and filled for the construction of East Lake Road. An cemetery there would have been massively disturbed or destroyed.



Several facts may be noted concerning the Old Orchard Site. The distribution of materials in the cornfield, the lawn area and the small garden, indicate the extent of the site north-south to encompass practically all of the Old Orchard Point area. It is likely that the site or sites would extend east-west from the lake to East Lake Road. As such, the dimensions of the site might be as much as 520 meters (N-S) by 250 meters (E-W). It does not appear that any portion of this area has escaped some form of disturbance.

The artifact density in the cornfield was quite low. Relatively little material was recovered from the two test units. However, to recover artifacts from two randomly placed units would suggest that if artifact density is not high, at least the artifacts are distributed widely over the area. As with the other sites located in the survey, the ratio of debitage (29) to retouched artifacts (9) is low. It would appear that the site represents one or more small, brief occupations. The only diagnostic artifact would appear to be the retouched Brewerton Side-Notched point. This would suggest a Late Archaic occupation of the Brewerton Phase of the Laurentian Tradition. This would place the site in the third millenium B.C.

Activities at the site would have included some lithic manufacture (debitage, incomplete or broken artifacts and a

hammerstone), hide or fiber working (scraper) and food preparation (fired rock fragment and the pestle fragment).

North of Old Orchard Point, to Van Zandt Road, the project area again becomes steep and overgrown. Several small gardens were examined and no archaeological materials were recovered.

From Van Zandt Road to Highway 20a-15, the project area begins with a steep topography on the south, but gradually becomes more level. In the steeply sloping area, a large cultivated field was examined and no archaeological materials were recovered. To the north though, in more level fields, two sites (Knapp and San Souci) were found east of East River Road. North of these sites was another large, steep agricultural field which was archaeologically sterile. However, across from this field, on a lower, more level series of terraces were two more sites (Elam and Sandrack). North of these sites the project area rises steeply east of East Lake Road and is overgrown. West of the road the area is highly disturbed from the construction of cottages.

Four archaeological sites were found in this part of Area B. They are described on the following pages.

Knapp Site (Site 4):

The Knapp Site is located in the Tuxedo Park area of Conesus Lake (Fig. 5). It is approximately 1300 meters north

of Van Zandt Road, 970 meters south of Wilkens Creek and 320 meters east of the lake. East Lake Road is the western boundary. The site lies in a cornfield in a relatively level area. This field also slopes fairly steeply up to the southeast and more gradually to the east. Elevations of the site area are around 267-270 meters above sea level.

All the artifacts, except for an incomplete projectile point were recovered from a 50 (N-S) by 20 (E-W) meter area in the southwest corner of the cornfield. The site would not appear to be much more than 1000 sq. meters in size.

Only a few artifacts were recovered from this restricted area, despite a thorough search. These included 5 pieces of chert debitage, 2 unifacially retouched chert flakes (possibly used as scrapers) and the distal end of a chert projectile point. Historic materials included 1 piece of white glass, 2 pieces of china and one piece of stoneware. Recovered about 60 meters to the south of this small concentration was an incomplete stemmed projectile point of chert. This point is 30.4mm. wide and the surviving portion is 44.4mm. long. It could not be identified as to any established type. A piece of mollusc shell, unidentifiable as to genus or species, was also recovered.

As with most of the other site, little may be said of the activities conducted here. No diagnostic artifacts were

recovered with which to identify the cultural and chronological parameters of the site. It would appear to be a small camp of brief duration. Again, it is interesting to note the relatively low ratio between the debitage (5) and retouched or utilized artifacts (4) recovered. It is possible that other sites may exist in the nearby area to the east, although a brief search outside the project area on the higher elevations to the east did not demonstrate this. Mrs. Knapp indicated that some points have been found on the higher elevations of the property. It is possible that the incomplete projectile point found well outside of the small concentration had its origins on these higher elevations from which it was transported.

One shovel test unit excavated on this site had an Ap Horizon 29cm. thick over the B2t Horizon. It would appear that the site was cultivated down to the B2t Horizon.

#### San Souci Site (Site 5):

The San Souci Site (named after the farm on which it was located) was the least well defined site noted in the survey, and it had the lowest density of artifacts. It is located north of the farm buildings of the San Souci farm. The site is about 485 meters south of Wilkens Creek, 1540 meters north of Van Zandt Road and 250 meters north of the Knapp Site (Fig. 5). It is also about 250 meters east of the lake. East Lake Road

is its western boundary. The elevation of the site ranges from about 270 to 273 meters above sea level and rises gradually to the east. Various small knolls and ridges were found in the field in which the site was noted.

Only a limited amount of material was recovered from the cultivated field and this was distributed over an approximately 160x160 meter area. This included three pieces of chert debitage and a chert scraper. This implement is a sidescraper with a working edge of  $37^{\circ}$ . The edge exhibits relatively little wear.

Three pieces of historic material were also recovered from the surface. These included one piece of white glass. Also found was a portion of the stem of a kaolin pipe. Such pipes were utilized over a long period of time between at least the early 1600's to the mid-1800's. Unfortunately, this artifact is too fragmentary to identify as to origin or a more specific time. No makers' marks were present.

The third piece of historic material is a commemorative pendant or a medallion. On the face is a flower with the inscription "ROCHESTER" and "THE FLOWER CITY". On the obverse side is;

ROCHESTER'S SECOND  
INDUSTRIAL EXPOSITION  
AND  
70TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
INCORPORATION  
OCTOBER 11-23, 1909.

Thus, the San Souci site, while limited as to prehistoric materials, has yielded one historic artifact over 70 years in age and a pipe fragment which is perhaps 150 years old or older.

Not much may be said regarding the prehistoric component at the site due to the limited amount of material recovered, its dispersed nature and the lack of culturally diagnostic artifacts. The site may not be placed in terms of time or culture. The owner of the San Souci farm indicated that his father, an amateur collector, found some artifacts in the area, but that these were few in number.

One shovel test unit excavated at the site has an Ap Horizon 26cm. thick over the B2 Horizon. The site appears to have been cultivated down to the B2 Horizon.

Sandrack Site (Site 5):

The Sandrack Site is located 160 meters north of Wilkins Creek and 320 meters east of the lake (Fig. 5). Wilkens Tract Road is the northern boundary of the site and East River Road is the eastern boundary.

The site is composed of two terraces above the lake. These terraces continue north of Wilkens Tract Road where more archaeological materials were recovered. This site was called the Elam Site (Site 6), but the two sites may well be related.

The lower terrace has an elevation of approximately 267 meters and the higher terrace is approximately 273 meters above sea level.

The site is located in a cultivated field. Most of the artifacts were recovered from the lower terrace. These included nine pieces of chert debitage (including one decortication flake), 1 piece of stoneware and six retouched or utilized chert artifacts. One mollusc shell fragment, unidentifiable as to genus or species was also recovered.

The chert implements included one chert flake which was retouched on both faces on opposed edges. An endscraper was also recovered. This chert artifact has a steep-bitted working edge of  $78^{\circ}$ . This artifact showed little wear on its working edge and no polish. Other artifacts included two blades of chert projectile points and the blade and a portion of the stem of another. None of these artifacts were complete enough to assign to a type.

The only diagnostic artifact recovered from the site was a corner-notched projectile point (Fig. 10 and Table #1). This projectile point corresponds fairly well to the Vosburg type defined by Ritchie (1971: 55). The corner-notches of this example were not quite as pronounced as most of those illustrated by Ritchie (1944, 1969, 1971) or Funk (1976). The Vosburg type is a



diagnostic of the Vosburg Phase of the Laurentian Tradition, which has a C14 date of 2524B.C.  $\pm 300$  (Ritchie 1969: 83-84).

The artifacts were randomly distributed over an at least 80x80 meter area. There were no concentrations of artifacts with which to define tighter site boundaries.

It is difficult to make too many statements about the site aside from its apparent limited scope in size and intensity of occupation. Industrial activities appear limited, with only nine pieces of debitage and six retouched artifacts. The scraper would also indicate some other industrial activity. It would appear that a Late Archaic component of the Laurentian Tradition is present, based on the recovery of the Vosburg point. A shovel test unit excavated on the site had 22cm. of Ap Horizon over the B2 Horizon. The site appears to have been cultivated down to the B2 Horizon.

#### Elam Site (Site 6):

The Elam Site lies across Wilkens Tract Road from the Sandrack Site and, as noted, both sides may actually be part of the same occupation. The site is bordered on the south by Wilkens Tract Road, on the north by a small dirt road and on the east by East Lake Road (Fig. 5). It extends from about 80 to 320 meters off the lake and approximately 320 meters south

of Highway 20a-15. Elevations of the site range from approximately 266 meters for the lower terrace, to approximately 267-273 meters above sea level for the higher terrace.

Unlike the Sandrack Site, most of the material from the Elam Site was recovered from the upper terrace in an area about 80 (E-W) by 120 (N-S) meters in size. Only four pieces of chert debitage came from the lower terraces. All of these flakes were small, secondary flakes.

Of the projectile points found on the upper terrace, one is a good example of a Lamoka point, down to the remnant of cortex still to be seen on the base of the point (Fig. 10). The other projectile point is incomplete and more difficult to associate with an established type. The point (Fig. 10 and Table #1) has an expanding base. The outline of the point suggests some similarity to the Lamoka points illustrated by Ritchie (1971: 83, 85), but other characteristics of the base and stem do not fit. As such, the point will be considered as untyped.

Artifact density at the site was very low and again, little may be said concerning the occupation. Apparently, a Lamoka Phase occupation is present, indicating a Late Archaic component at the site. The site would appear to be poorly defined spatially and of brief duration.

One shovel test unit was excavated at the site. It

revealed 31cm. of Ap Horizon over the B2 Horizon. The site appears to have been cultivated down to the B2 Horizon.

#### Summation and Evaluation of Area B

As noted, Area B was subjected to a pedestrian survey. This was largely restricted to surface survey of cultivated fields and small gardens. It would not appear that any significant portion of the area has escaped disturbance from agricultural or architectural activities, except for the steep slopes.

In the course of the survey, seven sites were identified in the project area. Along with the one site in Area A, these sites have the following traits in common;

- 1) location on relatively restricted second or third terraces above the lake - within 300 meters or so of the lakeshore
- 2) restricted distribution of artifacts, on most cases, and a very low artifact density
- 3) poorly defined site boundaries in most cases
- 4) low ratio of debitage to retouched lithic artifacts
- 5) few decortication flakes
- 6) presence of Late Archaic projectile points and/or aceramic assemblages
- 7) little evidence of domestic activities such as food preparation and consumption
- 8) shovel test units indicate the sites were cultivated down to the B2 Horizon.

It would appear that the sites represent brief, seasonal occupations of the lakeshore areas in the Late Archaic period. It is probable that these sites represent special activity sites indicating the utilization of some lake and/or lake vicinity resource. As noted, mollusc shell fragments were recovered from several of the sites, although it was difficult to determine if these were associated with the archaeological materials or were introduced to the site are in historic times. Utilization of shellfish appears to have been a minor aspect of the subsistence systems of the Late Archaic in central and western New York. Industrial activities at these sites were apparently of secondary importance as indicated by the paucity of debitage compared to the number of retouched artifacts present and the sparse nature of decortication flakes. Other industrial or domestic activities were represented by the scrapers, the pestle and the fired rock fragment.

Historic resources were present at all of the sites, although in most cases they consisted of artifacts of recent age such as paper, styrofoam or beverage containers. Historic artifacts of potentially greater age included a kaolin pipe-stem fragment (San Souci Site), a potential fragment of a possible old liquor bottle (Swartz Site) and a sherd of delft china (Old Orchard Site). A windshield survey of the architecture of the area, combined with discussions with local residents suggests that most of the structures west of East Lake Road

are cottages less than 50 years old. East of East Lake Road are the older, more substantial farm structures placed on higher ground to avoid the periodic flooding of the lake.

#### Area C:

Area C consisted of five small project sites on the west side of the lake. These included Eagle Point, Long Point, Cottonwood Point and two small areas to the south (Fig.4-7). These areas correspond to Zone MR-7 as defined in the Murphy and Silver report (1980: 37). Archaeological sites have been reported from four of these areas as follows (ibid: 15-16);

#### Long Point:

Long Point Refuse I - prehistoric, historic Iroquois  
and Euro-American - Site No. 1029

Long Point Refuse II - Archaic, Point Peninsula, Owasco,  
prehistoric and historic Iroquois

#### Cottonwood Point:

Site No. 3697 - campsite

#### Area C-1:

Conesus Village - Seneca Village - Site No. 3712  
(location tentative)

#### Area C-2:

campsite.

A pedestrian survey of these areas indicated that if the sites were present (at least the sites in Areas C-1 and C-2 are only tentatively located), they have probably been destroyed.

All the area have been heavily disturbed by landfill, the construction of numerous closely placed cottages, roads, landscaping and an amusement park (Long Point) as well as other forms of disturbance. Examinations of gardens and beach areas indicated a great deal of fill. This was confirmed by discussions with local residents and a development caretaker, who noted that the area was heavily disturbed and filled after the 1930's. Most of the cottages in the area date from after this time, although a few larger, older homes are also present. It would not appear that these areas retain any archaeological potential.

#### Area D:

Area D consists of approximately 2000 meters of the west bank of Conesus Creek as it leaves Conesus Lake, to a marshy area just north of the Lakeville Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project area here is approximately 10 meters wide with one area 30 meters wide (Figs. 4 and 9). South of Highway 20a-15, the project area includes a field in a trailer park. Finally, an area for pedestrian survey on the north shore of the lake, in Lakeville, was included in Area D.

The area on the creek is fairly well defined on the west by the 264.5 meter (820') contour line, and on the east by Conesus Creek. The land slopes uphill to the west up to elevations

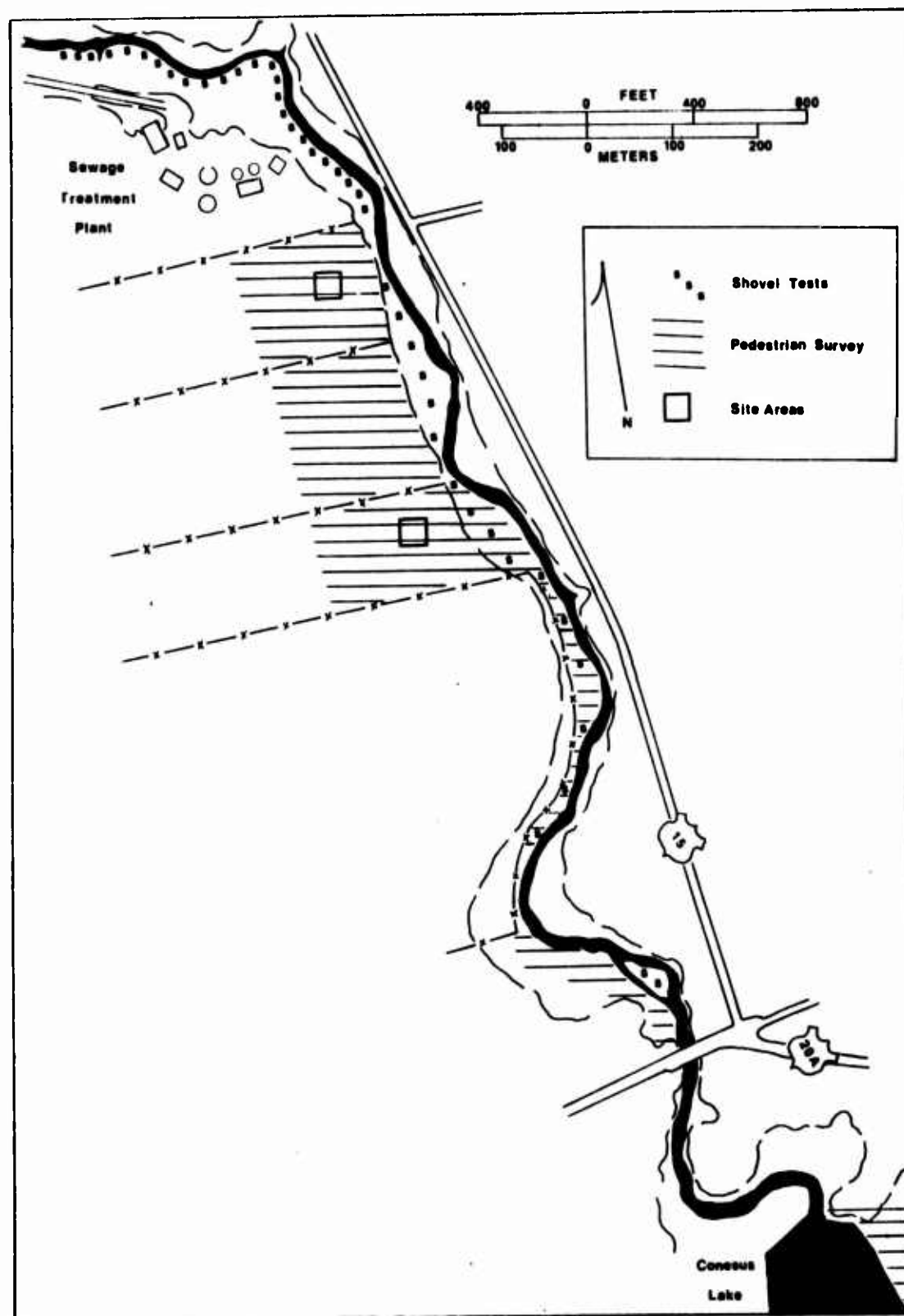


Fig. 9 - Area D along Conesus Creek

of about 290 meters above sea level at Highway 256.

Almost all of the project area along the creek lies in its narrow floodplain. This area consists of low, wet terrain with old meander scars. Vegetation cover is thick with many mature hardwoods, saplings and a dense understory of brambles, bushes and nettles.

The most westerly few meters of portions of the project area and the land to the west fall into the following terrains and vegetation covers from north to south. It begins in a grassy field north and east of the Lakeville Wastewater Treatment Plant. To the south lies a series of agricultural fields. South of these fields is a large pasture. This pasture borders a brushy area on the south which runs into a large landscaped yard of the Lease family, which fronts Highway 20a-15. South of the highway, the project area runs through several landscaped yards and into a trailer park.

The area on the north shore of the lake is heavily disturbed by landscaping and the construction of businesses, homes and roads.

Beginning on the north, 25 shovel test units were excavated from the northern end of the project area to the cornfields south of the plant site (Fig. 9). All 25 units showed various degrees of undifferentiated fill down to over 50cm. in some units. These units were not screened. The only materials recovered were a beer bottle, a small piece of glass and a nail.



all from fill.

In the first cornfield south of the wastewater treatment plant, no archaeological materials were recovered in, or in the immediate vicinity of the project. However, about 50 meters to the west, on a small knoll, 1 piece of chert debitage, the neck of a glass bottle and 1 stemmed chert projectile point were recovered. The bottle fragment included only half of the neck and lip. A mold line ran all the way to the lip. If the missing side also had the mold line, the vessel was probably not older than ca. 1903 (Weitzman 1976: 142). The projectile point (Fig. 10 and Table #1) is an incomplete stemmed point. Made of chert, it has a wide stem and an asymmetrical blade. The incomplete nature of the artifact precludes its assignment to any established type.

No archaeological materials were recovered in the oat field to the south. Similarly, no archaeological materials were found in the cornfield south of the oats, in the project area. However, as with the other cornfield, archaeological materials were found about 50 meters west of the project area. These included six pieces of chert debitage, 1 utilized flake, a chert scraper and one piece of glass. The chert scraper has a steep working angle of  $78^{\circ}$ . It shows almost no wear on the working edge.

South of this cornfield lies a pasture area. Permission could not be obtained to test in the field because of the presence of livestock. However, almost all of the project area lies between the eastern fence of this pasture and the creek. In the brushy area south of the pasture, six shovel test units were excavated on the western edge of the project area. These units had 12-23cm. of silt overlying a B2t Horizon. No archaeological materials were recovered. Finally, permission was denied to do any testing on the landscaped portions of the Lease property. However, permission was extended to dig several shovel test units on an overgrown "island" created by a channel previously dug for flood control of Conesus Creek. The two units dug had 25 and 28cm. of sand and silt and disturbance over the B2t Horizon. No archaeological materials were recovered.

As noted, all or most of the project area lay between the creek and the higher agricultural fields or pastures to the west. This area was carefully walked. Little surface observation was possible because of the dense understory covering the area. An old stone wall and a modern garbage dump were noted. Ten units excavated in this low, wet area had 10 to 40cm. of silt over a B2g (gleyed) soil horizon. The silt was often banded, indicating redeposition. Several units had groundwater at relatively shallow depths.

South of the highway, the proposed project area runs through a few landscaped yards, through a small wooded area and into a trailer park. The Corps of Engineers also requested a survey of a field in this vicinity. No archaeological materials were recovered from the small gardens fronting the highway. The trailer park and field are owned by a local resident who refused permission to do any testing. He indicated that the area was a former swamp which had been covered over by 1 meter of fill to facilitate the construction of the trailer sites. Since permission to test could not be obtained, the area was subjected to surface survey. This survey indicated that indeed, the area was a filled-in swamp and no undisturbed areas could be located.

Similarly, highly disturbed conditions characterize the rest of the north shore of the lake included in Area A. Several small gardens were investigated but no archaeological materials were recovered.

#### Summation of Area D

Area D may be divided into three terrains. One is the narrow floodplain of the creek. This low area has evidence of numerous small meander scars and redeposition of silt over a gleyed B Horizon. Sixteen shovel test units affirmed this assessment of the area. A second terrain has the agricultural fields and pasture which lie on the western edge of the project area

north of Highway 20a-15. Careful surface survey of the fields yielded no archaeological materials within the project area. However, two small sites were found on small knolls about 50 meters to the west. Finally, highly disturbed areas were found south of Highway 20a-15 and in the vicinity of the Lakeville Wastewater Treatment Plant. Twenty-eight test units near the plant, and pedestrian survey and interviews for the area south of the highway indicated that limited archaeological potential of those areas.

In summation, it would appear that the project area on the north edge of the lake and on the west side of Conesus Creek has little or no archaeological potential at the present time. The Murphy and Silver report (1980: 15-16) noted the presence of three archaeological sites on the north shore of the lake. It would not appear that much of these sites could have survived the development of the area.

No historic structures are threatened by the proposed project along the banks of Conesus Creek. Several large, older homes lie along both sides of the highway but these would not appear to be potentially threatened by the project. Any work in the trailer park area would not endanger any potentially historic structure.

The Conesus Lake Survey and its Relationship to the Archaeology  
of Conesus Lake and the New York State Predictive Model

The Conesus Lake Survey of 1981 may have some ramifications for site prediction in the area. The survey, limited in scope as it was, still suggested that factors such as slope and its attendant relationship to soil drainage and location relative to water resources were critical factors in site location. Almost every second or third terrace on the east side of the lake which lacked a steep slope was productive of archaeological materials. As noted in the report, these are small, often poorly defined sites which are assumed to be seasonal Late Archaic sites, on the basis of paucity of materials and diagnostic projectile points. To test this model of site distribution, an attempt was made to survey similar fields on the western side of the lake, although this area was not in the project. Permission could not be obtained from local property owners who did note the relative paucity of archaeological finds on their lands, compared to the east side of the lake.

It is tempting, on the basis of the survey results and the literature and records search conducted by Murphy and Silver to suggest that the Late Archaic sites are clustered on the small upland terraces along the lake, while the Late Woodland and historic Iroquois sites would be located on the level points of land thrusting out into the lake or along side it and on favorable locations on the alluvial flats surrounding

the inlet and outlet of Conesus Creek on the lake. These sites may have been more conducive to horticultural pursuits.

The general lack of Early and Middle Woodland sites in the immediate vicinity of Conesus Lake may reflect changing patterns of environmental exploitation during these periods. There does appear to be a trend towards riverine occupations during this period, including sites along the Genesee River. However, sites are also located, to some extent on lacustrine locations (Ritchie 1969, Ritchie and Funk 1973, Funk 1976). Dr. Rhodes, of the State University at Geneseo, has noted the presence of the most of the Early and Middle Woodland sites in the area on the Genesee River to the west of the project area (personal communication).

The Conesus Lake survey also revealed some data which ties into the regional predictive model for New York State. In this model, Hammer (1979) presented a design based on large-scale topographic features, soil characteristics, drainage and elevation. As applied to the Conesus Lake area by Murphy and Silver (1980: 33), four zones would have been present in the project area. Two of these, the Conesus Lake outlet at Lakeville and the glaciated uplands north and east of the lake would have had a moderate site sensitivity, while the area to the west of the lake and the marshy area to the south would have a lower potential. Murphy and Silver further subdivided

Hammer's key variables into smaller ranges of variability to produce a micro-regional model for the lake area. Here again, the primary factors are degree of slope, topography and soil drainage. They predicted that the area around Conesus Creek as it leaves the lake to the north (MR-3), the uplands to the east of the lake from Lakeville to Old Orchard Point (MR-4) and the area from Old Orchard Point to just south of McPherson Point (MR-7) would all be areas of moderate site density (Murphy and Silver 1980: 35-37). The same moderate sensitivity was applied to several small, higher areas on the west side of the lake (MR-7). A problem with this model is the use of terms such as "moderate", which are not very explicit or amenable to quantitative analysis.

As seen in the results of the survey, some of the assumptions of the model were largely proven for the prehistoric resources of the area. Since little work was done on the west side of the lake, the validity of the model could not be tested there (although reports from local residents indicated that the western side of the lake was less productive of artifacts than the eastern side). Further, much of Zone MR-7 on the western side of the lake and Zones MR-6A and MR-6B have been massively disturbed. Still, archaeological materials were recovered with some frequency in portions of Zones MR-4, MR-7

and MR-3, where the model predicted a moderate site sensitivity.

The data generated from the survey could also be used to generate other models of site distribution. It was noted that the site locations as seen in Fig. 4-5, have four things in common; relatively level topography, location on second and third terraces above the lake, good drainage and easy access to the lake and the small streams and creeks which drain into it. Indeed, almost everywhere these conditions existed and the area could be surveyed, an archaeological site was found, or had been previously reported. It would seem, on the basis of this survey, and other surveys in New York and the Eastern U.S., that the factors just noted are indicators of high site sensitivity. This model could be tested locally by gaining access to such limited areas which are still relatively undisturbed on the west side of the lake and by a program of shovel testing in the areas on the east side of the lake which are in pasture or are wooded. It may also be noted that the one site found in Area A was located in the one location in Zone MR-6A which had the factors conducive to high site sensitivity. It is possible that a more specific model of site location would cross-cut the zones utilized by Murphy and Silver.



### Summation and Recommendations

In June, 1981, the author conducted a reconnaissance level archaeological survey of the proposed Conesus Lake Flood Control project area. This area was subjected to pedestrian survey and the excavation of 248 shovel test units and two 1x1 meter test units. Four areas were defined. They are as follows;

#### Area A:

Located on the south end of the lake, this area was subjected to pedestrian survey and the excavation of 196 shovel test units. The area was demonstrated to be highly disturbed or marshy over most of its extent. The eastern margin of this area was somewhat better drained and largely covered by agricultural fields. On one of the lower fields, a piece of hand-blown glass was recovered, possibly from a late 18th century-early 19th century liquor bottle. The highest, best drained field, just off East Lake Road yielded the Beehive Site (a possibly previously reported site). The small site was defined by a scattering of surface material including modern historic debris, debitage and several retouched artifacts including a Vestal Corner-Notched point of the Late Archaic period. The site is restricted to a small terrace above McMillian Creek. The area slopes steeply uphill to the east which probably limits the site in that direction. Three more pieces of debitage

were recovered on the banks of the creek to the west and below the terrace. Subsurface testing along the creek and traces of B Horizon in the field suggest that it was cultivated down to the B Horizon. Thus, undisturbed archaeological deposits are not likely to be found, although deeply excavated features such as storage pits or burials may have survived, in part, the cultivation of the site. As such, it would not appear that the Beehive Site would qualify for the National Register of Historic Places and no further work is recommended as the site has been surface collected three times in the course of the survey.

It is understood that at the present time, no immediate disturbance is planned in Area A in connection with the flood control project. Even if such disturbance is planned for the future, no additional work is recommended.

#### Area B:

Area B consists of the eastern shore of the lake from just above the Livonia-Conesus Township line to Highway 20a-15 to the north. This area includes the highly disturbed lakeshore area and extends about 400 meters east to the terraces which rise above the lake.

A series of seven archaeological sites were discovered in this area. These were restricted to the second or third terraces

above the lake, which were bisected by East Lake Road. The sites are as follows;

**Swartz Site** - This site yielded 73 pieces of debitage and 23 retouched artifacts including projectile points of the Lamoka and Brewerton Phases of the Late Archaic and possibly a Snook-Hill Phase projectile. The site is largely restricted to a 4500 sq. meter area, but materials were recovered outside of this concentration, all from the surface. The site also yielded historic materials including a piece of handblown glass. The site appears to have been plowed down to the B Horizon. The Swartz Site was the most productive site encountered in the survey.

**Morsch Site** - The only prehistoric materials from this site included 10 pieces of chert debitage and one Lamoka point of the Late Archaic period. Most of the artifacts came from the surface of a narrow strip on the western edge of the cultivated field. Historic materials were recent in age. The Morsch Site appears to have been cultivated down to the B Horizon.

**Old Orchard Site** - The Old Orchard Site may be the largest site encountered in the survey and probably covers much of this peninsula area. From the surface of the cornfield came 11 pieces of debitage, mollusc shell fragments and 6 retouched artifacts. These included a pestle fragment. A projectile recovered was an example of a Brewerton Side-Notched point re-worked into a scraper. Two 1x1 meter units udg near the cornfield yielded debitage and retouched fragments from the Ap Horizon. Historic materials from the cornfield and test units included one potentially old piece of delft china and more recent pieces of china and glass. The Old Orchard Site appears to have been disturbed over its total extent by plowing or construction.

**Knapp Site** - Only five pieces of debitage and three retouched artifacts were recovered from the surface of the approximately 1000 sq. meter large Knapp Site. A fragment of a stemmed projectile point was recovered on the surface about 50 meters to the south of the site. Historic materials were all very recent in origin. The site appears to have been cultivated down to the B Horizon.

San Souci Site - This site was the least well-defined of any site discovered in the survey. It consisted of only three pieces of chert debitage and a scraper, scattered over at least 25,000 sq. meters of area. Also recovered were a number of historic artifacts including a kaolin pipe fragment and a 1909 Rochester Exposition pendant. The site would appear to be cultivated down to the B Horizon.

Sandrack Site - The Sandrack Site consists of surface finds made on two terraces above the lake. Most of the artifacts, including 9 pieces of chert debitage and 5 retouched artifacts, came from the lower terrace, which is about 6400 sq. meters in size. The upper terrace produced only one Vosburg point, of the Late Archaic. Historic materials included one piece of stoneware. The site was cultivated down to the B Horizon.

Elam Site - The Elam Site is the most northerly of the sites in Area B. In an approximately 9600 sq. meter area, four pieces of chert debitage and two projectile points, including a Lamoka point, of the Lamoka Phase of the Late Archaic period were found. Two more flakes were found nearby on a lower terrace. Historic materials were of a very recent age. The site appears to have been cultivated down to the B Horizon.

With the Beehive Site in Area A, the following may be noted about these seven sites;

- 1) all sites are in cultivated fields with little potential for undisturbed deposits, although deeply excavated features such as pits or burials might have survived the cultivation, at least in part. Outside of the sites, the rest of Area B also seems disturbed by construction or cultivation.
- 2) sites are small and generally poorly defined. Some of the sites may extend into areas which lacked good conditions for surface observation at the time of the survey.
- 3) artifact density is low and there is a low ratio of debitage to retouched artifacts, suggesting that industrial activities were minimal. There is little evidence for domestic activities as food processing, consumption or deposition as midden.

- 4) all sites are aceramic and where diagnostic cultural materials are present, they are in the form of Late Archaic projectile points. With one possible exception, these are from the Lamoka Phase or the Laurentian Tradition. Since these points overlap in time and spatial distribution, it is possible that two different groups were in the area, or that one group, using both styles of points was present.

On the basis of these facts, especially the sparse distribution of material and the disturbed nature of the deposits, it is difficult to see how any one of these sites would qualify for the NRHP and the excavation of any one of these sites is unlikely to be very productive of data in relation to the time and expenditures which would accompany such work. The sites may have value as an aggregate, however, as they provide data on the settlement system on the lake, at least in Late Archaic times. As such, the sites might deserve inclusion in some form of National Register Archaeological District, such as the Lake Farms Archaeological District investigated by the author in Dane County, Wisconsin.

The author understands from discussions with Corps personnel that Area B will not be impacted by the proposed flood control measures and that no future plans for construction in this area, by the Corps, are presently pending. However, if such work is planned, the author would make the following recommendations;

- 1) subsurface testing in the more level fields on second and third terraces which are presently in woods, pasture or covered by weeds and brush. This testing could be in the form of shovel test units excavated to the B2 Horizon. Units should be placed at 15 meter, or less intervals.
- 2) additional surface collection at least at the Morsch and San Souci sites, to recover diagnostic prehistoric artifacts.
- 3) subsurface testing in the hayfield on McPherson Point to attempt to relocate, if possible, the previously reported site in the area. The testing should be in the form of shovel test units, dug down to the B2 Horizon and spaced at 15 meter, or less, intervals.

It is likely that this entire program could be accomplished in no more than 25-30 man/days of work. More intensive testing at the sites in the cultivated fields is not recommended as the chances of finding undisturbed deposits would be low. Even if present, in some small part of the site, undisturbed deposits probably could not be located except by a prohibitively expensive program of testing. No additional work is recommended in the little area in the Sunnyside location.

#### Area C:

Area C consists of five small locations on the west side of the lake. These were all subjected to pedestrian survey and were found to have been massively disturbed by road and cottage construction and by landfilling. While several sites were reported in these area, especially Long Point, it is unlikely

that much of any of these survived, or that additional sites would be located. Thus, no sites would be located in this area that might qualify for the NRHP. The author understands that no immediate plans have been made for disturbance in this area and the author would recommend no additional cultural resource work be done if such plans are made.

Area D:

The author understands that Area D is the only area which would immediately be impacted by the proposed project. This area consists of a corridor, approximately 10 meters wide (with some wider areas) on the west side of Conesus Creek, as it leaves the lake, with a length of about 2000 meters. A pedestrian survey, supplemented by 46 shovel test units indicated that the project area here is either disturbed by construction and fill, or lies in a low, wet floodplain of the creek. As such, the author believes that the project area has little archaeological potential. Portions of it in the Lakeville area on the north shore of the lake might have had some potential prior to the disturbance of that area. It should be noted that two small surface sites were found in cornfields about 50 meters west of the project area. Thus, if future work is planned which would expand the project area about 30 meters or more from the present creek banks, some additional survey should be done.

If the Corps of Engineers plans to stay within the confines of the area outlined to and surveyed by the author, no additional cultural resource survey work should be necessary. Neither of the small sites found in the cultivated field would appear to qualify for the NRHP and no historic structures would be endangered in this area by the proposed work.

#### Curation

In keeping with the policies of Archaeological Consulting and Services, in-state curation is always sought for materials recovered in the course of a project. The Rochester Museum and Science Service has indicated preliminary agreement to accept the artifacts and field notes relating to this project as donations to their collections.



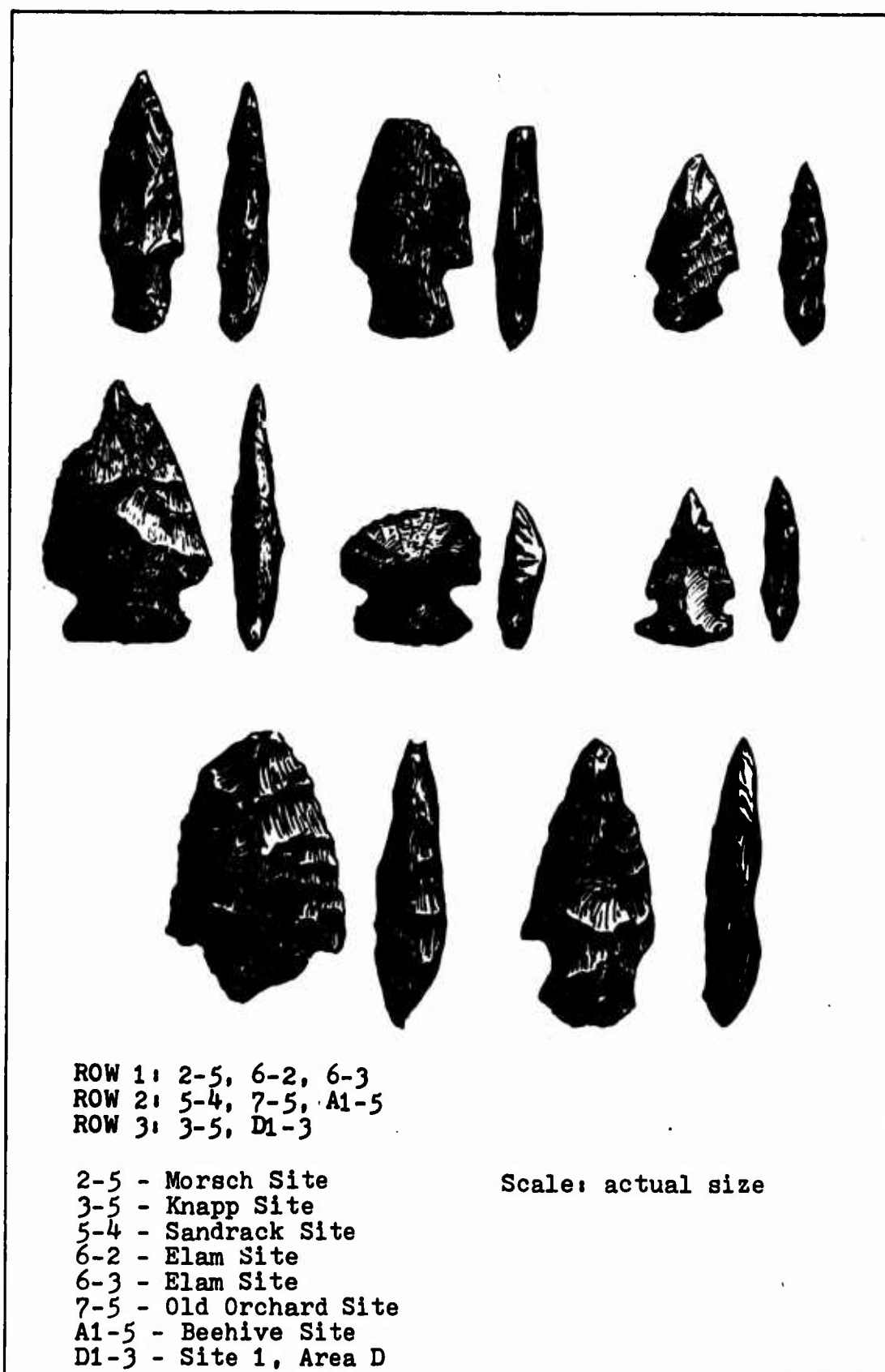


Fig. 10 - Projectiles from the Survey

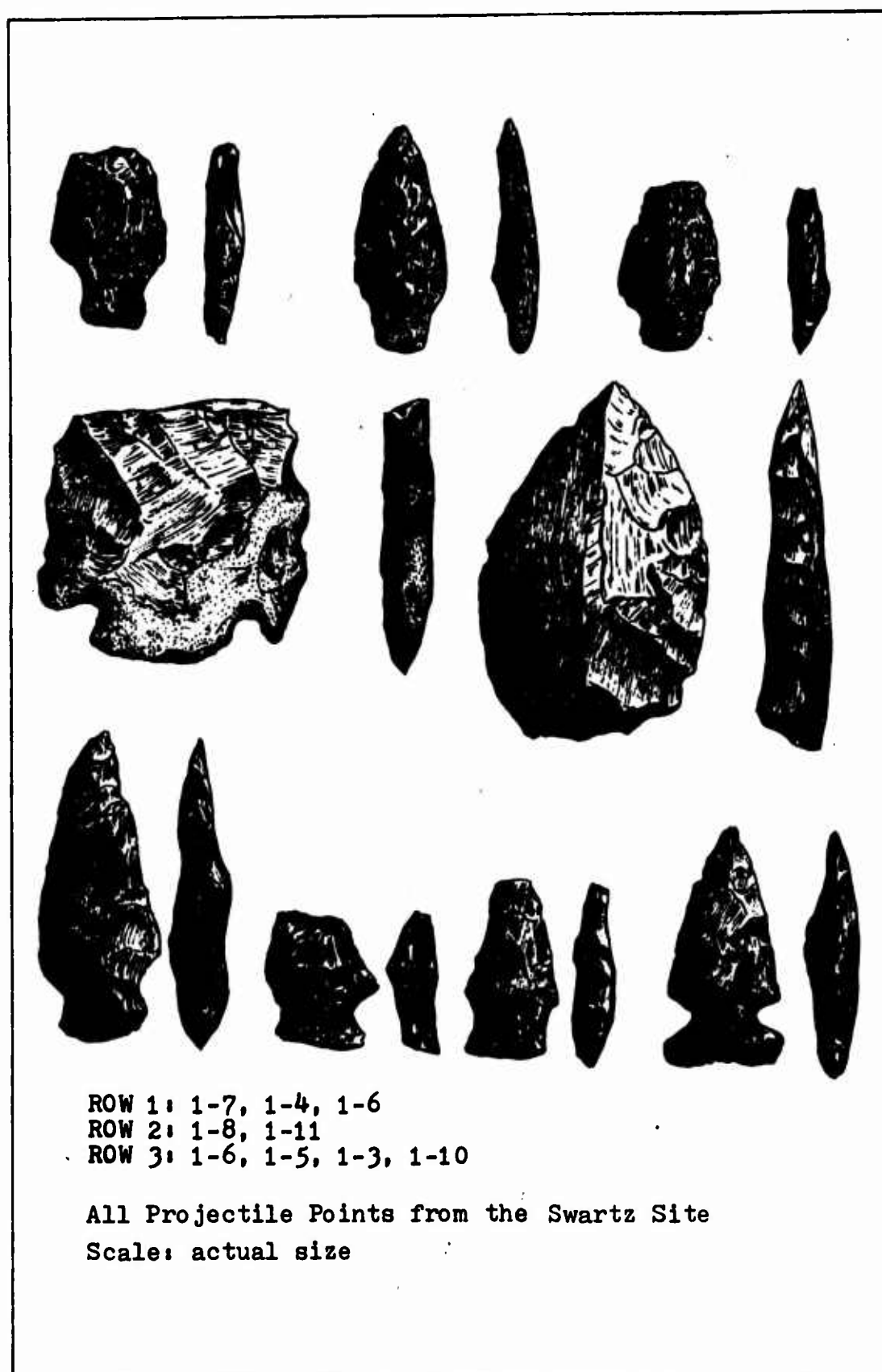


Fig. 11 - Projectiles from the Swartz Site

Table #1 - Metric Data on Projectiles Recovered in the Survey

Site	Cat. No.	Form	L	W	T	W*	L*	BG	C	BF	N
Beehive	A1-5	CN	25.9	14.5	4.9	16.7	7.8	G	PC	S	(1)2.8 (r)1.8
Swartz	1-3	St	37.6	15.2	5.9	13.4	9.0	N	BC	S	
	1-4	St	37.7	16.6	6.8	9.5	9.0	N	BC	S	
	1-5	St	38.8	19.2	6.8	4.8	8.4	N	R	S	
	1-6	St	36.1	17.0	5.6	10.3	6.5	N	PC	CV	
	1-7	St	50.2	19.4	5.7	9.7	8.6	N	PC	S	
	1-8	CN	93.9	46.4	8.7	23.5	8.8	N	BC	CV	(1)8.2 (r)7.0
	1-10	SN	39.8	18.6	7.3	20.3	11.3	G	BC	CC	(1)3.7 (r)3.3
	1-9	St	51.3	21.3	8.2	15.5	9.1	G	BC	CV	
Morsch	2-5	St	43.3	14.0	6.8	8.9	12.5	N	BC	CV	
Knapp	3-5	St	44.4	30.4							
Sandrack	5-4	CN	42.5	28.1	6.7	21.1	9.1	G	S	S	(1)3.7 (r)3.8
Elam	6-2	St	45.8	20.8	6.8	13.5	10.3	G	PC	S	
	6-3	St	29.3	15.4	5.3	11.9	9.0	N	BC	CV	
Old Orchard	7-5	SN	50.4	23.1	6.8	19.5	10.3	N	PC	S	(1)3.5 (r)4.5
Area D (Site 1) D1-3		St	47.9	22.8	17.4	16.5	12.9	N	PC	CV	

all data presented in millimeters

Form:

St - stemmed  
 SN - side-notched  
 CN - corner-notched

L - length (estimated if broken)

T - thickness at shoulder

L\* - length of stem

C - cross-section

N - depth of notches

W - width at shoulder

W\* - width at base

BG - presence (G) or absence (N) of basal grinding

BF - base form:

S - straight

CV - convex

CC - concave

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Spring, 1982:

Dissertation Defense, "Prehistoric Adaptations in the New Milford Area of the Housatonic River Valley, Western Connecticut"

February, 1972 - May, 1982:

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
 3/75: Defense of Dissertation Proposal  
 12/74: Defense of MA Thesis  
 Awarded 5/75  
 4/73: MA/PhD Exams passed on High Level

September, 1968 - December, 1971: State University of New York at Binghamton  
 B.A. in Social Science (Anthro.)  
 Certificate in Medieval Study

1965-1968:

Suffern High School, Suffern, New York  
 Regents Diploma

FIELD EXPERIENCE

1980:

Director. Numerous Surveys and Test Excavations in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa

FIELD EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

1979:	Director. Numerous Surveys and Test Excavations in Wisconsin and Iowa
Summer, 1979:	Director. Lake Farms Archaeological Project Director. University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Field School
1978:	Director: Small Surveys in Wisconsin
Summer, 1978:	Survey in Minnesota and Wisconsin for the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers, St. Paul District
Summer, 1977:	Director. University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Field School. Conducted several small surveys in Wisconsin.
Summer-Fall, 1976:	Director. Small Surveys in southern Wisconsin
Summer, 1975:	Director. Field School in Housatonic Valley of Western Wisconsin
Summer, 1974:	Director. Field School in Housatonic Valley of Western Wisconsin
August, 1973:	Completion of Malacological Project for Cedar Mesa Project
Summer, 1973:	Assistant Anthropologist. Directed excavations at two sites in Kickapoo Valley of Wisconsin for State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Summer, 1972:	Project Assistant: Participated in the Cedar Mesa Project, Southern Utah for the Museum of Northern Arizona
Summer, 1971:	Director. Survey, primarily in the Susquehanna Valley of New York for the NYS Museum and Science Service and S.U.N.Y. at Binghamton
Spring, 1971:	Field Assistant. Excavated the Winkelman Site in Barton, N.Y. for the NYS Museum and Science Service and the S.U.N.Y. at Binghamton

FIELD EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

Summer, 1970:

Crew Member, Participated in Survey and Excavation in the Susquehanna Valley of New York for the NYS Museum and Science Service and S.U.N.Y. at Binghamton

RELATED EXPERIENCE

1977 - Present:

Developed the Archaeology Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

1972-1977:

Experience in analysis at the archaeological and environmental laboratories at the U.W.-Madison and work in computer facilities

1972:

Curatorial Assistant in the historical collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

1970-1971:

Laboratory assistant at the archaeology laboratories at the State University of New York at Binghamton

1977 - Present:

Director of the archaeological program at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Responsible for the creation and development of a field school, laboratory and new course offerings

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Academic Years 1979-1981:

Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Director of Archaeology Program

Academic Year, 1978-1979:

Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Director of Archaeology Program

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Visiting Assistant Professor, Marquette University

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Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Director of Archaeology Program

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

Academic Year, 1975-1976:	Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Fall, 1973 - Spring, 1976:	Teaching Assistant for five semesters at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Taught sections of Introduction to Anthropology
Spring, 1973:	Taught two classes in method and theory in archaeology at East High School, Madison, Wisconsin
Spring, 1973:	Lecturer on Wisconsin Prehistory for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Summer, 1977, 1979:	Director. Field School for the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Summer, 1974, 1975:	Director. Field School in the Housatonic Valley in Connecticut
Spring, 1971:	Assistant on field school for S.U.N.Y. at Binghamton

PUBLIC SERVICE

1971-1980:	Numerous speaking engagements on various topics on anthropology for public groups including school groups from kindergarten to college.
1979:	Responsible for the enactment of a law protecting archaeological sites on county land in Dane County, Wisconsin

PUBLICATIONS

1979	"47Mq66: A Late Woodland Site in Montello, Wisconsin". <u>The Wisconsin Archeologist</u> . Vol. 60, No. 4. Pg. 330-349.
1976	"Excavation of Earll Mound #1: Some Hypotheses on the Function of Vacant Mounds in the Effigy Mound Tradition". <u>The Wisconsin Archeologist</u> , Vol. 57, No. 3. Pg. 152-164.

PUBLICATIONS (CONT.)

- 1975 "The Rose Rockshelter: An Effigy Mound Component in the Kickapoo Valley". The Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol. 56, No. 1. Pg. 55-71.
- 1975 "The Malacology of the Kane Springs Column and the Paleo-Ecology of Cedar Mesa, Southeastern Utah". Canyonlands Country, ed. James E. Fassett. The Four Corners Geological Society. Pg. 73-79.
- 1974 "The Malacology of the Kane Springs Column and its relationship to the Prehistoric Adaptations to Cedar Mesa, San Juan County, Utah". Masters Thesis, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 1976-1980 Over Seventy reports on cultural resource management surveys, tests and excavations. Reports range from 10 to over 300 pages in length.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PRESS

"An Archaeological Survey of Proposed Erosion Control Project Sites in the Lower Chippewa River Valley in Western Wisconsin". U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers, St. Paul District.

"The Cultural Resources of the Portage, Wisconsin Area" (including a popular summation). U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers, St. Paul District.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

"Ve502: A Multicomponent Site in Vernon County, Wisconsin". Manuscript complete.

"The Cultural Resources of Dane County". In preparation for the Dane County Regional Planning Commission.

"The Archaeology of the Lake Farms National Historic District". Site reports on three sites in Western Connecticut.

PAPERS

- 1980 "A Preliminary Report on the Lake Farms Archaeological Project. Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Central States Anthropological Society. Ann Arbor.

PAPERS (CONT.)

- 1979 "The Position of Western Connecticut in the Prehistory of Southern New England". Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archaeology in Vancouver, B.C.
- 1977 "Archaeological Excavations in the Madison, Wisconsin Area". Delivered at the Mid-West Archaeological Conference, Beloit, Wisconsin
- 1975 "Archaeological Surveys in the Madison Area". Delievered at a meeting of the Charles E. Brown Chapter of the Wisconsin Archaeological Society
- 1974 "A Preliminary Report on the 1973 Excavations in the Kickapoo Valley, Wisconsin". Delivered with John Halsey at a meeting of the Charles E. Brown Chapter of the Wisconsin Archaeological Society
- 1973 "The Cedar Mesa Project, Southeastern Utah". Delivered at a meeting of the Charles E. Brown Chapter of the Wisconsin Archaeological Society
- 1971 "Cultural Stratification in Unstratified Soils". Delivered at the annual meeting of the New York State Archaeological Society.

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ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

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North American Archaeology with an emphasis on the Northeastern U.S. and the Western Great Lakes

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